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POCKET  
GUIDE



TO  
NIAGARA FALLS.

40 ILLUSTRATIONS.



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ILLUSTRATED GUIDE

TO

NIAGARA FALLS

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# NIAGARA.

## DESCRIPTIVE.

For the reason that the task of describing any scene in nature is difficult in proportion to its rarity, and that we derive our conception of the same from the comparison it will bear with other works of nature, and for the further reason that Niagara Falls is *unique* and totally unlike any other scene on the face of the earth, it is a most onerous task to produce such a pen-picture of the Falls as can convey to the minds of readers who have never seen them an accurate idea of their grandeur. Many minds have essayed to reproduce Niagara literally, many pens have recorded the impression of visitors respecting it, without even faintly describing it; for there is no known rhythm whose cadence will attune itself to the tremendous hymn of this "sound as of many waters," neither will blank verse serve to rehearse its attributes in song. The best specimen of the latter was written by a gifted poet who visited this locality especially to set forth its beauties in verse, but who recorded only the following words:

"I came to *see*!  
I thought to *write*!  
I am but *dumb*!"

There is but one way to record poetically the fascinations of Niagara; that is, to tell its glories in that plain language which is the Creator's greatest gift to man, and to describe it as a part of that stupendous and eternal poem whose strophes and lines are the rivers, mountains, glens, caves and rainbows of the universe; for of nature in its grandest and most varied forms Niagara is a condensation and an exemplification.

Above the Falls, Niagara has, in her rapids, examples of many of the most remarkable combinations of Nature's work; and those who visit here can experience all the pleasure of the mariner in standing on the Goat Island Bridge, knowing that an almost irresistible billowy force is fighting against that structure, situated at the very edge of the gulf into which the river pours, and that they are still as safe as they could be on *terra firma*. It is a feeling that could not be reproduced in any other situation. One seems, when

stationed at this point and looking beneath him, to be on the verge of eternity; should the bridge give away, he would, in a few moments, be carried over the cliff, and lost! Yet the stability of the bridge removes all sense of danger, and compels confidence even in the presence of the dread power of the current.

If it is possible to imagine that the entire country of England and Scotland could be turned into one grand receptacle for five Inland Seas, such as the lakes which here unite in giving their waters to form the Niagara above the Falls; and if, further, it can be conceived that the peaks of the Alps and the Appenines were located at the Hebrides, so as to contribute their melting snows to this conflux of waters, and if it be assumed that the Dover Straits could be made such a river, to traverse the extreme heights above the Downs, and to pour its waters in two grand cascades over the cliffs of Beachy Head, an idea of the Falls proper would be presented to European readers.

Iceland has splendid geysers, sending up heavy clouds of vapors from its boiling springs surrounded by ice. The Matterhorn has its magnificent "*Arc-en-ciel*," which vies with the finest rainbows in splendor; and, from the summits of the Alps, one can look down upon the tops of trees which, from below, are of dizzy altitude. Here all these and other yet more remarkable effects are brought together at one point. England on the South coast and France on her North coast are both proud of their splendid beetling cliffs, between which rolls the majestic current of the English channel.

On the Niagara, similar but more imposing cliffs are brought together in near proximity and form the boundaries of a river which, receiving its waters from the Cataract, concentrate their mighty force into a turbulent flood, upon which one cannot look without allowing the mind to compare it with the Styx of the Ancients. And yet this avalanche of power meets with an effectual stop in its career at the "whirlpool," where its course is violently turned aside at an angle of ninety degrees, thus forming a veritable Maelstrom, such as cannot be found in any other portion of the globe for strength of current and obstinacy of opposing forces. Thus it would appear that nature had exhausted her resources in placing at this point, between two countries, a dividing line which deserved to be regarded as impassable. Further, that she reversed the usual order of her works to command the reverence and awe of humanity. Taking her fair coronet of rainbows from the skies, she set it in the midst of a river-fall; planting her high trees at the base of the cliffs, she caused their summits to be viewed from above;

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providing an almost inconceivable *catastrophe* of waters, she allows them to be observed from below, as if pouring from the clouds; and in the coldest seasons, without the aid of heat, a mighty cloud of vapor rises, and, condensing in the form of ice on all the surrounding scenery, forms a fairyland of scenic effect which is as weird and strange in its conception as the works of enchantment. Yet the mind of man has refused to be subdued by the grandeur here displayed, and has calmly proceeded to utilize the very edges of the cliffs for the purpose of suspending bridges to act as connecting links between the two countries which the river seems solely intended to separate; and across them the *iron horse* deliberately conveys the products of human industry to and from each land!

There is no point on the earth's surface from which an entire idea of human existence can be more adequately conceived than from the center of the R. R. Suspension Bridge, which in the distance appears as a mere web between the two cliffs, although solid and substantial as man's ingenuity can make it. There, suspended in mid-air, between precipices enclosing a terrifying chasm, through which rushes the mighty flood, it is impossible to stand without experiencing that feeling of enthusiasm connected with the assumption that the creation contains no power too great for human control. Yet, when the heavily-laden freight-trains cause the fabric to tremble, the possibility of the breaking of the Bridge seems so near and total destruction in that event so certain, then the feeling of exultation is necessarily allied with that of fear, recalling the idea of standing face to face with eternity. This, briefly and tersely, is the *locale* of Niagara which is at once a village and a city, for the reason that it contains such grand and interesting scenery as well as splendid manufacturing establishments and triumphs of human skill, although it has not more than 4,000 inhabitants!

A proposition has sometimes been made to convert this place into a park to the exclusion of manufactories. It is probable, however, that the various industries of the future will be able to draw all the power required from the river above the Falls, without in any way marring the scenery of the latter; and that while in the years to come, this village may grow to be a city, teeming with life and activity, its value as a health resort will be in no wise abated.

#### THE NAME NIAGARA.

The word Niagara is a household word all over the world. It is applied only to the locality, and is to-day the synonym for the

deal waterfall. It is of Indian origin, for the Indians once inhabited all this country, and much of the nomenclature of Western New York is traceable directly to them. Niagara is supposed to be borrowed from the language of the Iroquois, and means "The Thunderer of the Waters." It was the name of a tribe, for it was an Indian custom to call their tribes from the most important natural feature of the country they inhabited or to give the tribal name to such feature. Thus the names of the Onondagas, Hurons, Cayugas, Senecas and Oneidas are each kept alive by the name of a river and a lake; while the Mohawk River recalls to mind the greatest warrior tribe of all, and in Lake Erie the name of one of the weaker tribes is ever present. The River and the Falls were the chief features of the Niagaras country and their chief village bore the same name.

The Hurons dwelt North of this section and the Iroquois South of it. So the Niagaras dwelling between the two, and at peace with each, came to be called the Neuter Nation, in whose wigwams the warriors of these two tribes met in peace.

Niagara is said to be one of 40 known ways of spelling the name Ongniaarhra, Nicariagas, Ongiara, Onyakara, being the more common forms met with in old traditions.

The Neuter Nation were also called Attouanderonks by other tribes, that is, a people speaking a little different language; for their dialect was different from that of any other tribe, though partially understood by all. Both these names, as well as Niagaras and Kah-Kwas, were used so as to distinguish their location.

The Neuter Nation were destroyed or absorbed by the more powerful Iroquois about 1650, permanent neutrality being an untenable ground. The Senecas then occupied their lands.

Almost 100 years after this, a small remenant gathered together and went back to the famous home of their fathers, but they lived there only a few years and dying off left no descendants to perpetuate their tribe.

#### HISTORICAL.

The historical associations that are connected with this section of the country and with this famous River, are numberless. From the earliest days of the red men's rule, through the long French and English wars, to the closing of our own war of 1812, its borders have been the scene of many bloody conflicts and of countless deeds of strategy and heroism.

A line of forts, at first only palisades, but gradually strengthened into permanent forts, extended all along the River. Forts

Erie, Niagara and Mississaga on the Canadian, and Forts Porter, Du Portage, Schlosser, Little Niagara, Grey and Niagara on the American side, are but links in the great chain of defences erected at various times along the frontier.

Frequent contests were carried on between the French and English, each one assisted by faithful Indian allies and the results were both bloody and destructive, as neither party, even were they so disposed, could always repress the Indian nature, as shown in the determination to burn and scalp after a battle.

This contest between French and English in America was carried on for over a hundred years, and finally ceased in 1763, when the French rule in North America was wiped out. It virtually ceased in 1759, after the capture of Quebec by Gen. Wolfe.

After the Declaration of Independence, this section saw a few years of comparative quiet, and the settlement of Western New York prospered. The defense of this boundary was also considered, though the next war saw the British in possession at one time of the entire American bank of the Niagara.

The declaration of the war of 1812 threw this section into a ferment. Buffalo and Fort Niagara were the American strongholds, Fort Erie and Queenston Heights those of the British.

August 11, 1842, Gen. Van Rensselaer of the New York militia established headquarters at Lewiston. October 15, he crossed the river and captured Queenston Heights. Soon after, Gen. Brock arrived and attacked him. Brock was killed in the engagement. Another reinforcement of British soon arrived, and as Van Rensselaer's volunteers on the American side proved to be cowards and refused to cross to aid their comrades, these gallant fellows were totally defeated in sight of their comrades. This was the chief event of the year 1812 on the frontier.

Late in the year 1813, Gen. McClure crossed from Fort Niagara, and destroyed the Canadian town of Newark, but thinking Fort Niagara secure, he returned to Buffalo. Col. Murray of the English surprised Fort Niagara and captured it December 19, 1813. Then the people were terror-stricken and fled for their lives. The Indians, the old allies of the English, were drawn to their standard, and scoured the country. The British captured and burnt Lewiston, Niagara Falls and the Tuscarora village between December 20 and 29, and Buffalo December 30.

Early in 1814, Gen. Brown took command, and with him were Scott, Gaines, Porter, Miller and others. Then the campaign was pushed with zeal and energy. Then followed victories, Chippewa,



Lundy's Lane the famous sortie from Fort Erie and the total defeat of the British and soon after these peace, resulting for the Americans according to Lord Beaconsfield's famous aphorism in "Peace with Honor."

Of many of these points of historical interest and of the events which happened there, we shall later on give a more detailed description, and shall also give many facts and figures in relation to the River itself, which it would be difficult to find elsewhere.

#### GEOLOGICAL.

Within the memory of men now living, the Falls have receded 100 feet. This naturally prompts the question, where did the retrocession begin? Geologists tell us, and their answer is accepted as conclusive, at the mountain near Lewiston. The whole waters of the lakes there foamed over this dam, which was several miles in width. This accounts for the shells, etc., which have been found on Goat Island, it having been submerged; also for the shells found on the land along the river up stream, shells which enabled Lyell, Hall and others to prove that the Niagara once flowed through a shallow valley.

That it cut the gorge is geologically equally decided. There is no better place to study geology and the strata of rocks than this gorge that Niagara has cut. Mr. Allen in his Guide Book says: "Not only has the Niagara River cut the gorge; it has carried away the chips of its own workshop. The slate being probably crumbled, is easily carried away. But at the base of the Fall, we find large boulders, and by some means or other they were removed down the River.

"The ice which fills the gorge in Winter, and which grapples with the boulders, has been regarded as the transporting agent. Probably it is so to some extent. But erosion acts without ceasing on the abutting points of the boulder, thus withdrawing their support and urging them down the River. Solution also does its portion of the work. That solid matter is carried down is proved by the difference of depth between the Niagara River and Lake Ontario, where the River enters. The depth falls from seventy-two feet to twenty feet, in consequence of the deposition of solid matter caused by the diminished motion of the River. Near the mouth of the gorge at Queenston, the depth, according to the Canadian Admiralty Chart, is 180 feet; well, within the gorge it is 132 feet.

"We may add a word regarding the proximate future of Niagara. At the rate of excavation assigned to it by Sir Charles Lyell,

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namely a foot a year, 5000 years or so will carry the Horseshoe Fall far higher than Goat Island. As the gorge recedes, it will drain, as it has hitherto done, the banks right and left of it, thus leaving nearly a level terrace between Goat Island and the edge of the gorge. Higher up it will totally drain the American branch of the River, the channel of which will in due time become cultivatable land. The American Fall will then be transformed into a dry precipice, forming a simple continuation of the cliffy boundary of the Niagara. At the place occupied by the Fall at this moment we shall have the gorge inclosing a right angle, a second whirlpool being the consequence of this. To those who visit Niagara a few milleniums hence, I leave the verification of this prediction." Various authorities put the recession at from one inch to one foot a year. "When doctors disagree, etc."

There is some gradual wearing away of the soft limestone, varying with the volume of water, but every spring the frost and elements accomplish a year's work by breaking off some large pieces, tons in weight. Thus the deeper water, swifter current and greater weight and force of the Horseshoe Fall cuts the rock away faster than the shallow waters of the American Fall do. Allen says. "All the phenomena point distinctly to the center of the River as the place of the greatest mechanical energy, and from the center the vigor of the Fall gradually dies away toward the sides. The horseshoe form, with the concavity facing downward, is an obvious and necessary consequence of this action. Right along the middle of the River, the apex of the curve pushed its way backward, cutting along the center a deep and comparatively narrow groove, and draining the sides as it passes them."

Prof. James Hall, in his geology of the 4th district of New York state, suggests the possibility of their having been three separate falls, one above the other, when the Falls first began to recede. The face of the gorge from the Falls to Lewiston and along the ridge shows us exactly through what kind of rocks the gorge was cut. Prof. Hall gives these as the strata of the rocks.

1. Niagara limestone.
2. Soft shale.
3. Compact grey limestone.
4. Shale.
5. Sandstone constituting, with Nos. 6, 7 and 8 the Medina group
6. Shale and marl.
7. Quartz sandstone.
8. Red sandstone.

In his work on Niagara, Holley thus explains the progress of Niagara :

"Before reaching the whirlpool, the mass becomes, practically, resolved into numbers three, four and five, the limestone, as a general rule, growing thicker and harder, and the shale also, as we follow up the stream.

"The reason why retrocession of the Fall is possible is found in the occurrence of the shale noted above as underlying the rock. It is a species of indurated clay, harder and softer according to the pressure to which it may have been subjected. When protected from the action of the elements, it retains its hardness, but when exposed to them, it gradually softens and crumbles away. After a time the superstratum of rock, which is full of cracks and seams, is undermined and precipitated into the chasm below. If the stratum of shale lies at or near the bottom of the channel *below* the Fall it will be measurably protected from the action of the elements. In this case, retrocession will necessarily be very gradual. If above the Fall the shale projects upward from the channel below, then in proportion to the elevation and thickness of its stratum will be the ease and rapidity of disintegration and retrocession. It results, therefore, that the shale furnishes a very good standard by which to determine the comparative rapidity with which retrocession has been accomplished at different points.

"From the base of the escarpment at Lewiston up the narrow bend in the channel above the Devil's Hole, a distance of four and a quarter miles, the shale varies in thickness above the water from one hundred and thirty feet at the commencement of the gorge to 110 feet at the extremity of the bend. Here, although there is very little upward curve in the limestone, yet there is a decided curve upward in the Medina group, noticed above, composed mainly of a hard, red sandstone. It projects across the chasm, and also extends upward to near the neck of the Whirlpool, where it dips suddenly downward. The two strata of shale becoming apparently united, follow its dip and also extend upward until they reach the maximum elevation near the middle of the Whirlpool. Thence the shale gradually dips again to the Railway Suspension Bridge, three-quarters of a mile above. For the remaining one and a half miles from this Bridge to the present site of the Falls, the dip is downward to the new Suspension Bridge, where it rises again and passes under the Falls to Table Rock."

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#### FIRST VISITED BY WHITE MEN.

We do not know when white men first visited Niagara, though after the discovery of the St. Lawrence in 1534, any of the traders and adventurers who sought this region may have done so at any time.

Jacques Cartier, in his description of his second voyage, 1536, speaks of a cataract, but he never saw it. Samuel Champlain, in a book of his voyages, published in 1613, indicates a waterfall on a map.

In 1648, the Jesuit Father, Ragueneau, in a letter, speaks of the cataract, and locates it very correctly, and on Sanson's Map of Canada, 1657, it is indicated.

Du Creux, in 1660, in a work, "Historiæ Canadensis," indicated, Niagara on a map, but he did not describe the Falls, and it is doubted if he ever saw them.

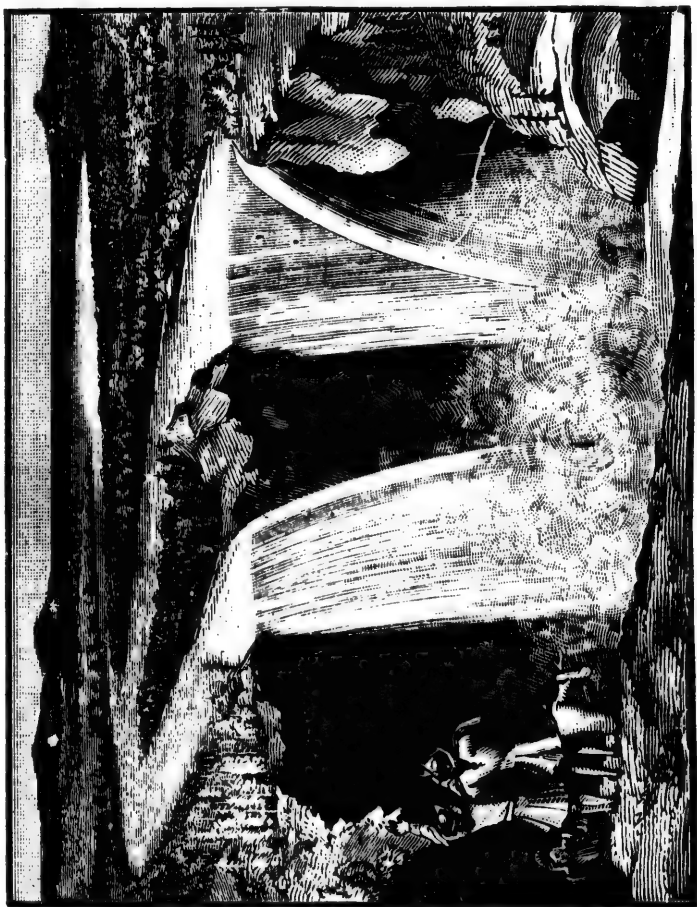
The first description that we have is that of Father Hennepin, published in 1678. We here quote a part of his description, and also reproduce his picture of the Falls, which was the first known representation of Niagara.

#### "CHAP. VII.

*A description of the Fall of the River Niagara, which is to be seen betwixt the Lake Ontario and that of Erie.*

**B**ETWIXT the Lake Ontario and Erie, there is a vast and prodigious Cadence of Water, which falls down after a surprizing and astonishing manner, insomuch that the Universe does not afford its Parallel. 'Tis true, *Italy* and *Suedeland* boast of some such Things; but we may well say they are but sorry patterns, when compar'd to this of which we now speak. At the foot of this horrible Precipice, we meet with the River *Niagara*, which is not above a quarter of a League broad, but is wonderfully deep in some places. It is so rapid above this Descent, that it violently hurries down the wild Beasts while endeavoring to pass it to feed on the other side, they not being able to withstand the force of its Current, which enevitably casts them headlong above Six hundred foot high.

This wonderful Downfall is compounded of two cross-streams of Water, and two Falls, with an isle sloping along the middle of it. The Waters which fall from this horrible Precipice, do foam and boyl after the most hideous manner imaginable, making an outrageous Noise, more terrible than that of Thunder; for when the Wind blows out of the South, their dismal roaring may be heard more than Fifteen Leagues off.



Fac-simile of First Engraving of Niagara Falls, 1698.

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The River *Niagara* having thrown it self down this incredible Precipice, continues its impetuous course for two Leagues together, to the great Rock above-mention'd, with an inexpressible rapidity: But having passed that, its impetuosity relents, gliding along more gently for other two Leagues, till it arrives at the Lake *Ontario* or *Frontenac*.

Any Bark or greater Vessel may pass from the Fort to the foot of this huge Rock above mention'd. This Rock lies to the Westward, and is cut off from the Land by the River *Niagara*, about two Leagues further down than the great Fall, for which two Leagues the People are oblig'd to transport their goods overland; but the way is very good; and the Trees are very few, chiefly Firrs and Oaks.

From the great Fall unto this Rock, which is to the West of the River, the two brinks of it are so prodigious high, that it would make one tremble to look steadily upon the Water, rolling along with a rapidity not to be imagin'd. Were it not for this vast Cataract, which interrupts Navigation, they might sail with Barks, or greater Vessels, more than Four hundred and fifty Leagues, crossing the Lake of *Hurons*, and reaching even to the farther end of the Lake *Illinois*, which two Lakes we may easily say are little Seas of fresh Water."

The Rock above mentioned was a huge bolder or mass that was found on the river bank near the foot of the mountain, and just above the village of Lewiston.

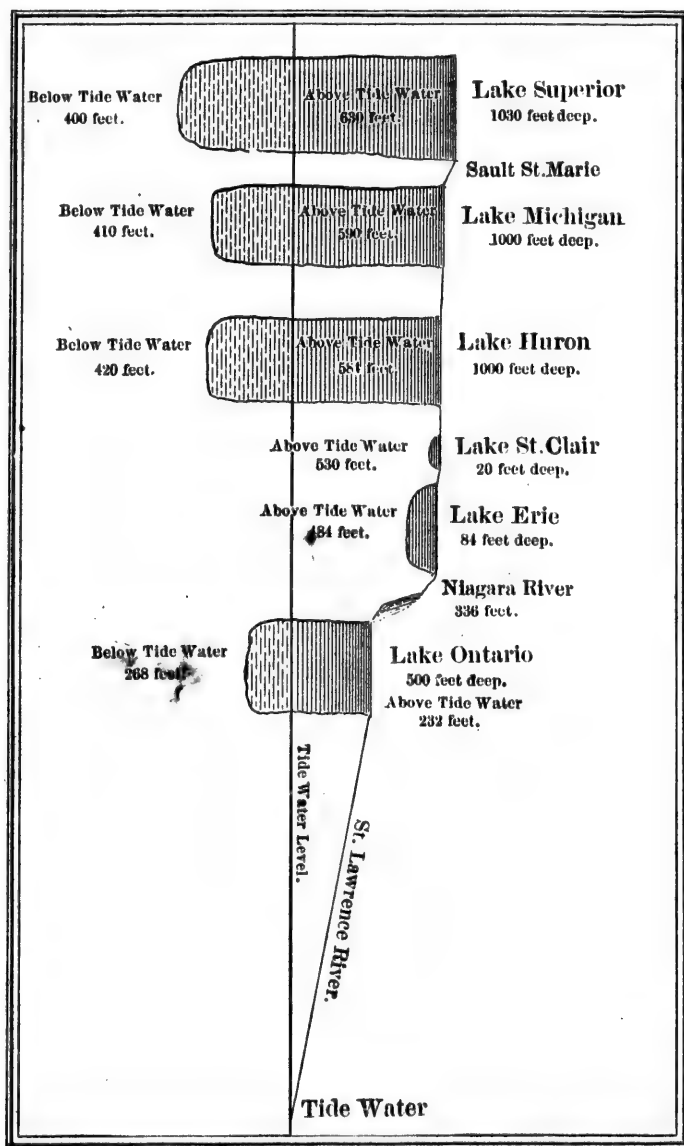
Hennepin was the priest and historian who accompanied Chevalier Robert de La Salle. This leader ascended the St. Lawrence, built a trading post at Fort Niagara, visited the Falls, built in Cayuga Creek on the American side, 5 miles above the Falls, the Griffin, 60 tons burden. August 7, 1679, she set sail, the first vessel that ever floated on the Upper Lakes. She crossed Lake Huron, but on the return foundered with all on board.

#### THE NIAGARA RIVER.

The Niagara River, one of the shortest, but one of the most famous rivers in the world, is a part of the system by which the waters of the Great Lakes are carried to the ocean. Its entire length is only 36 miles—22 miles from Lake Erie to the Falls, and 14 miles from the Falls to Lake Ontario.

The Niagara River is merely one link in the chain which conducts the waters of Lake Superior to the Atlantic. It is called the Niagara River between the two Lakes, Erie and Ontario.





Map showing Elevations above Tidewater.

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When it leaves Lake Ontario, it is the River St. Lawrence, which is 700 miles long, and falls into the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

It is part of the boundary line between the U. S. and Canada as decreed by the treaty of Ghent in 1815. By that treaty, the boundary line runs through the center of the Great Lakes, and through the deepest channel of the rivers. By this means, over three-fourths of the islands in the River, including all the important ones but one, belong to the U. S. Of these islands, there are in all 36, of which Grand Island is the largest and Goat Island the most famous.

In its course, the River falls 336 feet, as follows: From Lake Erie to the Rapids above the Falls, 15 feet; in the Rapids, 55 feet; at the Falls, 161 feet; from Falls to Lewiston, 98 feet; from Lewiston to Lake Ontario, 7 feet.

Its sources are, Lake Superior, the largest body of fresh water in the world.

|              | 355 miles long. | 160 miles wide. | 1030 feet deep. |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Lake Huron . | 260 "           | 100 "           | 1000 "          |
| " Michigan   | 320 "           | 70 "            | 1000 "          |
| " St. Clair  | 49 "            | 15 "            | 20 "            |
| " Erie . .   | 290 "           | 65 "            | 84 "            |

Several smaller lakes, with one hundred rivers, large and small, pour their waters this way, draining a country of more than one hundred and fifty thousand square miles. This is the drainage of almost half a continent, and whose remotest springs are 2000 miles from the ocean.

With such a supply, it is not surprising that the volume of the Niagara River is never noticeably diminished.

Through the mouth of the St. Lawrence, more fresh water pours into the ocean than through the mouth, probably, of any one river in the world.

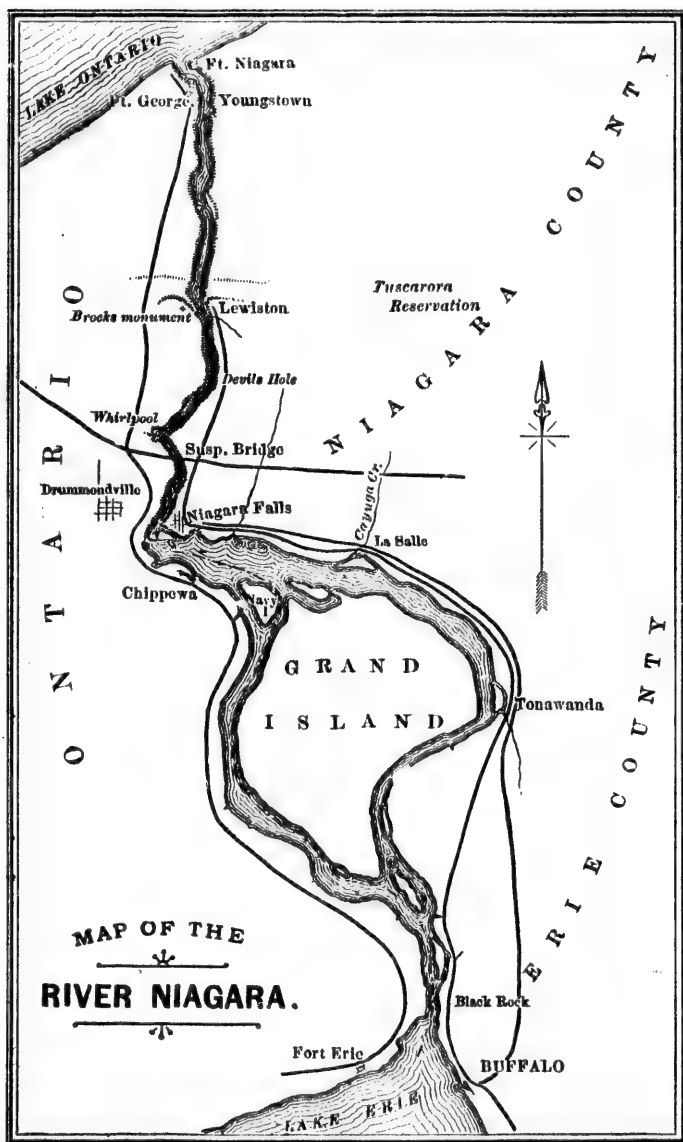
The River, over the American Falls, falls 159 feet, and over the Canadian, 165, the difference being caused by the greater accumulation of rock at the base of the former.

The Niagara is never frozen over, but it accumulates more ice than any other river in the world.

From records kept, a rise in height of water of one foot at top of Falls, will by actual measurement, raise it  $17\frac{1}{2}$  feet below.

The River, within 4 or 5 miles of the Falls, contains some of the best fishing grounds to be found anywhere.

On the surface below the Falls, the current, when the water is smooth, runs on an average about six or seven miles per hour. Sailors say, about 30 or 40 feet deep it runs, at least, 10 or 12



Map of the Niagara River.

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knots. And this is the reason, we think, why saw-logs and other bodies plunging over the Horseshoe Fall are not seen until they come up at the Whirlpool, a distance of three miles.

There is a tradition that there is a periodical rise and fall in the level of the Lakes, embracing a period of 14 years. In 1843, 1857 and 1871 the Niagara River was very low.

March 29, 1843, a heavy gale from the West caused the highest water ever known. The water rose 6 feet perpendicularly on the Rapids.

On March 29, 1848, a strong East wind drove the water back into Lake Erie. The heavy ice was wedged in at the mouth of the River. This dammed the water up, and soon the River was nearly dry. The rocks under the rapids were bare, and people walked and drove over them. The Falls, of course, shrank to a mere nothing. The next morning, the ice was forced out, and Niagara resumed its sway, but the sights and the experiences of that day were novel ones.

The average depth of the River from Lake Erie to the Falls is about 20 feet. In some places it is over two miles wide. At the narrowest point, near the Whirlpool, the current is above 40 miles per hour, and at the widest part, about 4 miles per hour.

Between the Falls and the Whirlpool, the depth varies from 75 to 200 feet. At the Whirlpool Rapids, it is estimated at 250 feet; in the Whirlpool, at 400. But it should be recalled that this is the depth of the water alone. The mass of stone, gravel, shale, etc., which in one way and another has been carried into the channel, lies below the water and above the original bottom of the Gorge, which, therefore, is probably as deep again. Various estimates have been given of the amount of water going over the Falls. A point 300 feet wide below the Falls being selected, the depth estimated, and the velocity of the current known, it was estimated that 1,500,000,000 cubic feet passed that point every minute.

Another estimate says 100,000,000 of tons pass through the Whirlpool every hour.

Judge DeVeaux estimated that 5,000,000,000, barrels go over every 24 hours; 211,836,853 barrels an hour; 3,536,614 barrels a minute; 58,343 barrels each second.

#### NIAGARA FALLS.

The Falls are in latitude 43° 6'' North; longitude 2° 5'' West from Washington, or 79° 5'' West from Greenwich.

The Horseshoe Fall has an aggregate length of over 2,000 feet; the American Fall, about 800 feet.

Hennepin speaks of three Falls, the third formed by the huge masses of rock situated where Table Rock stood. These rocks were of great extent, and the water being obliged to flow around them, formed the third Fall, and this Fall fell inward and at right angles to the present Fall. Seventy years later, 1751, this third Fall had disappeared, though still told about by the Indians. The reason was because the big rock had been crumbled away, and the channel of the big or center Fall had been cut deeper, thus draining this higher channel.

Some one once suggested that when you are opposite the Falls, especially in the Gorge, lie down flat on your back, your head toward the Falls, and look at them over your head from that position. The sight is unique and weird.

People are often puzzled to see the River above the Falls flowing West, knowing that Canada is North of the U. S. and that the Niagara's course is North. This is caused by the position of Grand Island, and a glance at the map will explain it.

In 1858, the Prince of Wales visited the Falls, which were lit up by calcium and colored lights placed along the chasm, and as near as possible to the Falls themselves. The effect was grand, and has never been equaled.

The Indians, it is said in Judge De Veaux's works, have a tradition that two human beings, yearly, will be sacrificed to the Great Spirit of these waters. Whether any reliance can be placed upon the tradition of the Indians or not, it is true that almost every year has proved fatal to some one.

The Indians used annually to sacrifice a life to the Great Spirit of the Falls, choosing the fairest daughter of the tribe to guide a white canoe, filled with fruits and flowers, over the dreaded brink.

At first sight, strangers are sometimes disappointed. Either their expectations have been raised too high, or the grandeur of the scene surpasses anything they anticipated.

The second view is frequently more expressive than the first. The longer the visitor tarries, the more he enjoys and appreciates.

The Falls, it is true, when seen from above, do not appear more than 50 or 60 feet high; but let the visitor go below, if he would get a correct impression of this stupendous cataract. Ten times as much water goes over Canadian as over American Fall.

The spray rises up in the heavens like smoke, and can be seen for a long way, especially when the rays of the sun are upon it. Judge Porter said he had thus seen the spray at a distance of 100 miles.

by the huge If the wind is up the River, the view of the Falls is not obstructed, but if it is blowing down the River, it is difficult to get These rocks any view of the Falls.

flow around In 1840, Gull Island, South of Goat Island, contained two acres and at right of land. The storm of 1847, and the continued encroachments of 1, this third of the River, cut it all away, there being hardly a trace of it now.

Indians. The The view of the Falls at sunrise and sunset is particularly grand.

d away, and The view of the Falls at sunrise and sunset is particularly grand.

deeper, thus grand.

The moonlight views of Niagara are indescribably weird and te the Falls delicate, and it will repay the traveler to journey far to see them. , your head solar bows, formed by reflection of the sun on the spray, can be seen m that posi on any bright day, when the visitor is between the sun and the spray. Lunar bows, seen at night, are formed in a similar way, by e Falls flow- Lunar beams. The spectator must be similarly placed.

and that the The roar of the Falls can be heard a long way if the wind blows ion of Grand toward the listener. It has been heard at Toronto, 44 miles, and a were lit up at Buffalo, 22 miles. When the wind blows from the listener, the and as near aract.

und, and has A loud roaring of the Falls is said to indicate rain. The rain have a tra- winds come from the West, and a West wind brings the sound over ficed to the he village.

an be placed Niagara Falls in Winter is a scene that no pen can describe. that almost The ice bridges are simply accumulations of ice that fill the Gorge of course, as uneven as it is possible. These so-called bridges can be crossed with safety. Sometimes they extend up and down Great Spirit stream for half a mile, and several Winters it has been possible to e to guide a walk on these bridges up the center of the River, clear past the aded brink. American Fall, and to Goat Island, mounting the Biddle Stairs, or ed. Either returning by the same route to the Ferry Stairs. Many people grandeur of have taken this foolhardy journey. The ice that collects on the n the first. trees is formed by the spray freezing layer by layer, and is very appreciates. hard, and pure white, and glistens in the sunlight with exceptional ppear more brightness. No such ice scenery—on the banks for long icicles, f he would on the River for ice jams, on the trees for delicate and fantastically Ten times shaped ice tracery—can be found elsewhere.

all. VILLAGE OF NIAGARA FALLS.

an be seen The Village of Niagara Falls was incorporated July 6, 1848, under re upon it. the General Act of New York, passed in 1847. It has a population ance of 100 of 4,000. On both sides of the River it is estimated that the average annual number of visitors to Niagara is 400,000. It is located in

what is known as the Mile Strip, a strip of land one mile in width along the whole length of Niagara River reserved by the State in its early sales, and sold by the State about 1800. According to the State divisions, there were about 100 lots in the strip, lot No. 42 being located at the Falls.

After the freedom of the United States had been recognized, a dispute arose as to who should own that part of Western New York lying West of Seneca Lake. Commissioners finally gave New York the jurisdiction and Massachusetts the ownership. It would seem that the land was first sold to Phelps & Gorham, and as they partially failed to fulfill their agreement, Robert Morris acquired it, and afterwards sold the Western part to the Holland Land Company, though the Mile Strip was not included in any of the above sales. The part purchased by the company is known as the Holland Land Purchase.

The village was originally named Manchester, and now it seems likely that in a very few years it will be worthy of the name.

In 1877, it was first proposed to make an International Reservation here; to have Canada buy certain lands adjoining the Falls and New York State certain similar lands; to restore them to a state of nature, and thus keep them forever. The report of the New York Commissioners in 1879 recommended that the land represented by the shaded part on our map be so reserved. New York has passed a preliminary bill, appointed commissioners, and a survey is now in progress.

Numberless accidents have happened at Niagara—suicides, murders, drowning, over the Falls, etc. One or two accidents are specially mentioned in this work, but it would be useless to give a full list of even known accidents. The number of those who have taken the fatal plunge at night, unseen save by the "Eye that sleepeth not," can never be ascertained. Some years there will be no known accident; again there have been twelve in a single season. A famous accident was that of July 19, 1853. Early in the morning, a man was seen on a rock in the American Rapids, midway between the Falls and Goat Island. He proved to be a Mr. Avery, who in crossing the river had been drawn into the Rapids and had caught there. People flocked from all over the country to see him. Boats and ropes were lowered. Several boats were lost, and two sank near him. Food was sent to him in tin cans. A raft was made and lowered, and reached him safely. He got on it and seized the ropes. It was floated over to Chapin Island, but caught there. A boat was lowered and touched the



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raft. Avery stepped forward to get into it. The raft tipped and he fell into the River and was carried over the Falls after an eighteen-hour struggle for life. Of late years we think accidents are fewer and suicides much more frequent.

Two or three events here deserve more than a passing mention. The first of these was the feat of walking across the River below the Falls on a tight rope, performed in 1858 by Blondin, a Frenchman. He first stretched his rope, a 2-inch cable, across the River below the old Suspension Bridge. About every eight feet, stays were attached to this rope, and running from each shore to near the center of the span; and at each point two ropes diverged, one on either side to the nearest bank. Across the rope at this point, and afterward at a point midway between the old Suspension Bridge and the Falls, he repeatedly crossed the chasm, performing tricks—at one time wheeling a wheelbarrow; once carrying a man on his back, once with peach-baskets on his feet (this when the Prince of Wales was a spectator), and once in the night, when an attempt was made to light up the chasm. He carried a heavy balance-pole, by which he steadied himself. He was a man of iron nerve, and could he have obtained permission, would have stretched his rope from the Terrapin Rocks to the opposite shore, and thus in the midst of the spray and rainbows, have essayed to cross the yawning gulf, and he probably would have succeeded.

Since that time not less than three men and one woman have performed the feat of walking over the chasm on a tight rope.

In 1873, a fellow, Belleni by name, stretched a rope from opposite the Clifton House to Prospect Park. Walking to the center of the rope, he three times leaped off into space and sank into the River below, a distance of 200 feet. He had a rubber cord an inch in diameter and twelve feet long constructed, one end being securely fastened to the rope. Holding the other end firmly in his descent the tension served to hold him in an upright position. The third time the cord broke and entangled his feet, so that below water he was tightly bound. He sank so deep that he nearly suffocated. He was picked up by the boat which was in readiness, but in an exhausted condition.

In 1878, after duly advertising the fact, a man named Peer, dropped from the center of the new Suspension Bridge into the River. The platform from which he hung by his hands while poisoning himself, is still attached to the Bridge, beyond the rail in the center of the bridge on the side toward the Falls. He performed the feat in safety.

But the most daring feat was that performed June 15, 1861, by J. R. Robinson, a brave and noble man, and one whose name for deeds of daring and for assistance rendered to men who were endangered in the Rapids of the Niagara will ever be fondly cherished here. In 1846, a small steamer, called the "Maid of the Mist," was built below the Falls, and made regular trips up close to the Falls and back. In 1854, a larger and better boat, 90 feet long, was built and continued the business successfully. In 1861, being restricted to the Canadian shore for passengers, she did not pay, and as the sheriff was about to levy on her for debt it was necessary to get her away. There was but one route. But who would pilot her? No one but Robinson, and he agreed to deliver her at Lake Ontario, and he did. Two men went with him, and on the date above they started. In the Whirlpool Rapids the boat was terribly battered and her smoke-stack torn off, the men being knocked down and powerless. When she reached the Whirlpool, Robinson seized the tiller, and before she was sucked into any of the eddies, guided her into the outlet, whence, through the rushing, dashing waters, she sped like a bird and reached Lewiston and quiet waters in safety. Robinson is said to have received \$500 for his services during the 20 minutes intervening between leaving the ferry stairs and the arrival at Lewiston. Robinson and his two companions are the only men who ever passed through the Whirlpool alive.

The village is a splendid manufacturing point. Its location is central; water-power is plentiful and reasonable. The village has all modern improvements; taxes are light, and there is no debt of any kind. Railway facilities of all kinds and over all roads are unsurpassed. Raw material can be received by water via the Erie Canal from the East, and via the Niagara River from the great lakes.

The Hydraulic Canal in this village was completed in 1855. This canal can be cut 100 feet wide at any time, and will then furnish unlimited water-power. The canal was bought by J. F. Shoelkopf in 1878. Since then its basin has been enlarged, and a huge penstock or shaft, 50 feet square and 100 feet deep, has been sunk down into the rock. A tunnel connects the bottom of this shaft with the Gorge below the Falls, and thus 3,000 extra horse-power has been attained, and this power, by belts and ropes, is transmitted long distances in all directions.

Niagara, through her hackmen, bears a bad name the world over. These men are not as bad as represented; neither are the

5, 1861, by J. great majority of them swindlers. As in every other business, there are bad ones as well as good. The worst feature about them is the way in which they follow people and importune them to ride. They seem to have no comprehension of the meaning of the word "no." If the State ever makes an International Park at this place, they will doubtless establish a special police force, and a special court of justice, and will control the principal streets, as they would be the avenues leading to this Park. When this becomes an accomplished fact, that class of Niagara hackmen who are now so obnoxious will, under the shade of stern law and justice, be forever crowded out of the place. In dealing with them, make a definite bargain in advance; stipulate exactly as to tolls; the names and number of the points of interest to be visited; the time to be occupied; and that there are to be no extras, and there will usually be little trouble.

We append below the rates of fare allowed by law in the Village of Niagara Falls, N. Y., for the use of carriages:

#### RATES OF FARE ALLOWED BY LAW,

FOR THE USE AND HIRE OF CARRIAGES WHERE NO EXPRESS CONTRACT IS MADE THEREFOR:

For carrying one passenger and ordinary baggage from one place to another in the village, 50 cents.

Each additional passenger and ordinary baggage, 25 cents.

For carrying one passenger and ordinary baggage from any point in this village to any point in the Village of Suspension Bridge, 1 dollar.

Each additional passenger and ordinary baggage, 50 cents.

Each additional piece of baggage other than ordinary baggage 12 cents.

Children under 3 years of age, free.

Over 3 years and under 14 years, half price.

Ordinary baggage is defined to be 1 trunk and 1 bag, hat or handbox, or other small parcel.

For carrying one or more passengers, in the same carriage, from any point in this village to any point within 5 miles of the limits of the village, at the rate of \$1.50 for each hour occupied, except that in every instance where such carriage shall be drawn by a single horse, the fare therefor shall be at the rate of 1 dollar for each hour occupied.

## PREFATORY.

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In the preparation of this entire work, we have endeavored to tell fully and plainly what there is to see at Niagara Falls and in the neighborhood, so that our *Guide* may be used by all coming here as a means of selecting points of interest to visit, and afterwards taken abroad to show to absent friends what has been seen. Keeping that object in view, we have inserted many fine cuts illustrative of the Falls and vicinage, and believe that our efforts to assist our readers in this particular will be widely appreciated.

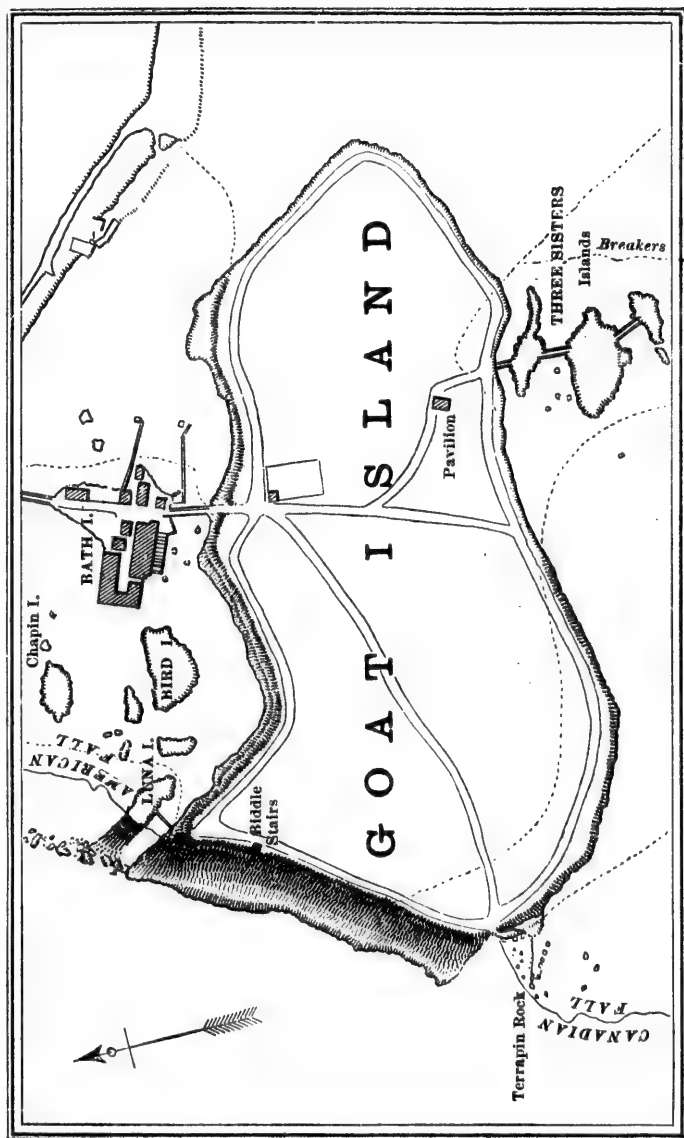
The maps accompanying this book have been specially prepared for it and will be of great service, as they point out the relative position of the different points of interest.

In order to proceed regularly in our task, we have placed the various points of interest in the order in which they usually are and in which they always ought to be visited—the Goat Island Group coming first in the category, as it is indisputably the finest piece of property in the world as a Summer or Winter scene. By following this arrangement visitors will see the whole of Niagara to the best advantage, in the easiest and quickest way and with the least needless expense.

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Map of Goat Island.

## POINTS OF INTEREST.



Bridal Veil Fall.

### GOAT ISLAND.

The "*Goat Island Group*," so called, is an estate consisting of a large island standing on the verge of the cliff over which the Cataract pours, and dividing the River in such a manner as to form from its waters two Falls—the one being known as the "*American*" and the other as the "*Horseshoe or Canadian Falls*," and includes several other smaller islands, notably Bath Island, Luna Island, Terrapin Rocks, Three Sisters Islands, and ten others not yet accessible by bridges.

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Originally, the first man who had any right to name "Goat" Island, called it very properly "*Iris Island*," and it ought to be known under that appellation. It owes its present singular name to a local fact. In 1779, a Mr. John Stedman, having cleared a portion of the upper end of the Island, placed some goats (notable among them an aged male goat) upon it. During the ensuing Winter it was impossible to reach the Island, and the animals were killed by the cold. The people named the Island after the representative of the flock "*Goat Island*," a cognomen which has ever since adhered to it.

These islands were originally owned by the State of New York. At one time it was proposed to establish a prison and at another time an arsenal at Goat Island.

In 1814, General and Judge Porter bought of Samuel Sherwood a paper called a *Float*, given by the state as pay for military services rendered, authorizing the bearer to locate 200 acres of land on any of the unsold or unappropriated land belonging to the State. Part of this they located on Goat and other adjacent islands, immediately above and adjoining the Great Falls, their patent bearing date 1816 and signed by Daniel D. Tompkins as Governor, and Martin Van Buren as Attorney-General of New York. An early record says the Island once contained 250 acres of land; at present the group contains some 65 acres. The area of Goat Island is sixty-one and a half acres; its circumference about one mile. A strip about 10 rods wide and 80 rods long has been washed away on the South side since the first road was made in 1818. Long before it was bridged, it was visited from time to time by persons to whom its attractions were of more importance than the peril of reaching it. The late Judge Porter, who visited it in 1805, found names cut in the bark of a beech near the Horseshoe Falls, with the subjoined dates of 1771, 1772 and 1779. The first bridge to this group was built in 1817, and reached to the head of Goat Island. The next Winter the high water and the ice washed it away.

In 1818, another bridge was built, but lower down, on the site of the present one. This was repaired frequently till 1856, when the present iron bridge was constructed. The foundation consists of oak cribs, filled with stones and covered with plates of iron. The superstructure is of iron, and consists of four arches of ninety feet span each, supported between these piers. The whole length of the bridge is three hundred and sixty feet, and its width is twenty-seven feet. Of this a double carriage way occupies sixteen



and a half feet, and two foot ways, one either side of the carriage way, five and a quarter feet each. Visitors often ask how the first bridge was built over the Rapids.

A suitable pier and platform was built at the water's edge; long timbers were projected over this abutment the distance they wished to sink the next pier, heavily loaded on the end next to the shore with stone, to prevent their moving. Legs were framed through the ends of the projecting timbers, resting upon the rocky bottom, thus forming a temporary pier, around which a more substantial one was built. These timbers were then securely fastened to this pier, cross-boards were spiked on and the first section was done. The plan was repeated for each arch.

Goat Island was, in ancient times, one of the favorite burying-grounds of the Indians, and yet preserves traces of their funeral rites. It was particularly revered as the spot where chiefs and noted warriors were buried.

The entrance and toll gate to Goat Island is portrayed below.

Tolls for the day, 50 cents each. Season, \$1.00. Reductions to excursions.



Goat Island Toll Gate.

Crossing the first bridge, from which both up and down stream is to be had one of the grandest views of the Rapids, you reach Bath Island, some two acres in extent. A few rods below and near the Falls is Chapin Island, so called because a man of that name in 1849, while repairing the bridge, fell into the River, but succeeded in reaching that Island, from which he was soon rescued. Cross the next bridge and you are at Goat Island.

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Ascend the hill, and turn to your right—by taking this route you get the less impressive view of the Falls, at first, and the more grand and imposing last; and you get more time in which to appreciate the magnificent grandeur and awful sublimity. Advancing for a few rods through the forest you reach one of the most charming views of Niagara, illustrated on next page.



Approach to Goat Island.

Descending the stairs, on what from its shape is called "*Hog's Back*," you stand next to the Little Fall, beneath which is the famous Cave of the Winds; and crossing the little bridge at your right, you reach Lnua Island.

From the further point, protected by an iron rail, we see the most desirable, *near* view of the American Falls and Rapids which are so close, that it is possible to dip the hand into the rushing tide passing over the verge. Here, too, one gets an excellent view of the *debris* of rock and shale deposited by the action of the torrent at the foot of the American Fall, and also a fine perspective of the Gorge below.



American Fall from Goat Island.

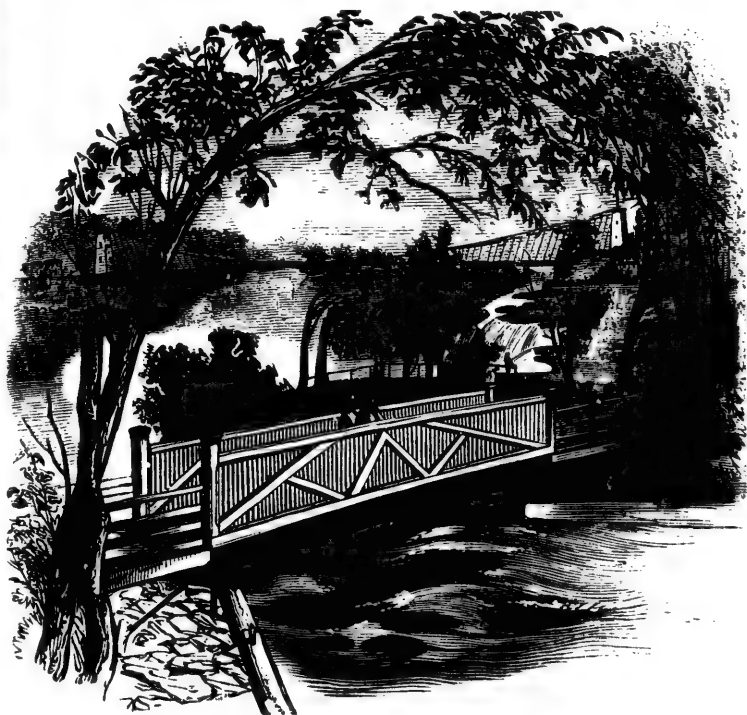
This spot is called Luna Island, because the Luna bow is seen here to the best advantage.

It has often been remarked by strangers that this Island trembles, which is undoubtedly true ; but the impression is heightened by imagination.

It was while climbing over the rocks directly under this Island, that Dr. Hungerford, of Troy, N. Y., was killed in the Spring of 1839, by the crumbling of a portion of the rock from above. This is the only accident that ever occurred at Niagara by the falling of rock,

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On the Northern shore of this Island, a few feet above the brink, is a spot of mournful memory. On June 21, 1849, the family of Mr. Deforest, of Buffalo, with a friend, Mr. Charles Addington, were viewing the scenery from this point. The party, in fine spirits, were about leaving the Island, when Mr. Addington advanced playfully to Miss Annetta, the little daughter of Mrs. Deforest, saying, "I am going to throw you in," at the same time lifting her over the edge of the water. With a sudden impulse of fear, the child sprang from his hands into the River. With a



Bridge, to Luna Island.

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shriek, the young man sprang to save her, but before those on shore had time to speak or move, they had passed over the precipice. The young lady's remains were found the same afternoon in the Cave of the Winds; and a few days afterward, the body of the gallant but fated man was likewise recovered and committed to the village cemetery. This is, perhaps, the most touching casualty that ever occurred at the Falls.

As you leave Luna Island, stop a moment at the foot of the path before ascending, and see the so-called profiles, formed by the

inequality of projection in that portion of the precipice which is direct  
formed by the Western side of Luna Island. The rock is close to Amer  
and almost under the American Fall. above

They obtain their name from their remarkable likeness to three human faces.

Reaching the top of the bank, proceed straight ahead and you soon catch the first glimpse of the "*Horseshoe Falls*," so called from its resemblance to that article. Years ago the name was appropriate, but to-day there is not the least resemblance. The building before you contains the dressing rooms for the Cave of the Winds and leads to the famous Biddle Stairs, so called from the President of the United States Bank, Nicholas Biddle, who in 1820 contributed a sum of money for their erection.

They are secured to the solid rock by ponderous iron bolts, and are said to be perfectly safe. The perpendicular height of the bank at this place is 185 feet; the staircase itself being 80 feet high and consisting of 90 steps. From the stairs to the river there is a rude pathway; but it is seldom traversed, except for the purpose of angling, an art which, at the right time of the year, is here practiced with the happiest success.

Shortly after their erection, the well-known Sam Patch, whose diving propensities made his name a household word, made his famous leap of 100 feet into the River in 1820. Midway between the foot of these stairs and the Canadian Fall, he erected a scaffold 96 feet high, from which he made his successful leap. He repeated it successfully the same year, then went to the Genesee Falls at Rochester, and jumped, and was killed. He never rose to the surface after he jumped, and his body was not found for some days, and then miles away.

No charge is made for the use of the stairs.

From the foot of Biddle's Stairs, two paths lead in opposite



Biddle Stairs from above.

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directions, one toward the Canada, and the other toward the American Fall. The former has been obstructed by slides from above, and is more difficult. But it will repay your trouble for

you will get the splendid view as shown on next page, which is not obtainable elsewhere.

Taking the road to the right from the foot of the stairs, a few minutes' walk brings you to the celebrated Cave of the Winds, or as it is sometimes called *Æolus Cavern*, by all means the best place to go behind the sheet of water. It was first entered in 1834, and during the past 50 years, this curious but splendid Cave has been the chief charm of the locality and has been visited annually by hundreds. It is 100 by 160 feet in dimensions, and 100 feet in height. Having been excavated by the action of the falling water, it forms a natural chamber through which, with suitable dresses and guides, which can be secured for a dollar, we can pass between the Cataract and the Rock, and see the ever-changing effect of the light passing through the descending mass of water; take a bath in the mist and spray of old Niagara; pass through the rainbows, and secure a delightful, novel and strange sensation of commingled terror and safety, from which we can emerge after a few minutes as free from any other effect of the water as when we entered.

Biddle Stairs from below.

The formation of this Cave was easy. The gradual wearing away by the water of the shaly substratum of the precipice left the limestone rock above projecting about thirty feet beyond the base, thus forming an open cave, over which falls the torrent of Niagara. The compression of the atmosphere by the falling water is here so great that the Cave is rendered as stormy and turbulent as that of old *Æolus* himself, from whose classical majesty, indeed, it derived its first name.

The formation of the Cave itself is explained by an illustration farther on.

If the wind is blowing down the river, or from the American shore, you can stand with perfect safety upon a large rock, within a few feet of the falling sheet, without inconvenience from the spray. In the afternoon when the sun shines, there is always a splendid rainbow, between the sheet of water and the rock, within a few feet of you; and this is the only place on the globe where a rainbow forming an entire circle can be seen. Two, and sometimes three, have been seen at once.

The grand trip in front of the Fall, where the water appears to pour from the sky, is splendidly illustrated on page 36.



Horseshoe Falls from below.

After leaving the Biddle Stairs, follow the path along the bank and you soon reach the spot where a huge slice of the land has fallen. One slide occurred in 1843 and another in 1847. Within 20 years, more than 20 feet in width and 400 feet in length have gone down. Proceed a little further, and you stand above and in full view of the Canadian Fall. Go down the hill and out to the Terrapin Rocks; it may be tiresome, but it will amply repay you.

This Bridge is subject to the action of the spray; care should be taken in crossing it. In the Winter of 1852, a gentleman from West Troy, N. Y., while crossing to the tower, fell into the current, and was carried to the verge of the Fall, where he lodged be-



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tween two rocks. He was discovered by two citizens, who rescued him by throwing out lines, which he fastened around his body just in time and was hauled in almost senseless. He remained speechless for several hours after being taken to his hotel.

As you stand inside the iron rail and overlook the vast gulf below, you are in the very center of Niagara.



Cave of the Winds.

The old Terrapin Tower, also called Horseshoe or Prospect Tower, of which we give an illustration, stood on these rocks. It was built in 1833, of stones gathered in the vicinity. A round tower 45 feet high, 12 feet diameter at base and 8 feet at top, with a gallery near the upper end—a rugged structure in perfect harmony with its surroundings. It was blown up by the wish of a majority of the owners of the Goat Island Group, in 1873, some pretending to believe it unsafe. Its destruction was entirely unnecessary and took away a charming feature of Niagara, which it is hoped may soon be replaced. Table Rock which fell in 1850, was directly opposite on the Canadian shore.

From this point one gets the best view of the shape of the Fall, and the clearest idea of how it has been modified by the action of the water. This action has been especially violent of late years. On Sunday, February 1, 1852, a portion of the precipice, stretching from the edge of the Island to the tower, about 125 feet long and 60 feet wide, and reaching from near the top to the bottom of the Fall, fell with a crash of thunder. The next day another, a triangular piece, with a base of about 40 feet, broke off just below the tower. Between the two portions that had thus fallen, stood a rectangular projection, about 30 feet long and 15 feet wide, extend-



American Fall from below.

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ing from the top to the bottom of the precipice. This mass loosened from the main body of the rock and settled down perpendicularly about 9 feet, where it stood for years, an enormous column 150 feet high by the dimensions given.

This Fall is sometimes called the Canadian Fall. America owns one-half of it. The width is estimated at 144 rods. The deep green color of the water, especially in the angle, is supposed to be due to the depth. In 1827, the *Michigan*, a vessel condemned as unseaworthy, was purchased and sent over the Fall. She drew 18 feet, and filled with water as she went through the rapids. As she went over the brink without touching, the depth of the water was proved to be 20 feet.

As you reach the top of the bank, the path directly in front will lead you through the wood back to the Bridge, but you will miss

much if you take it. Turning to the right, you follow the edge of the bank for about forty rods and reach a small stone monument, directly in your path, marked with a cross on the top, set by the surveyors to ascertain if the Falls recede. This is the best point from which to get a correct view of the shape of the Horseshoe Fall.

Go on a few feet farther, and soon the view shown on the following page, bursts upon you.

This, the South side of the Island, is specially mentionable from the fact that it affords unsurpassed views of the Canadian Rapids, which run at the rate of 28 miles per hour.

You soon reach the Three Sister Islands, which were connected with Grand Island by handsome Suspension Bridges in 1868, and which open up an entirely new scene. The grandest views of the Rapids to be found at Niagara are right before you. These Islands offer, from their location, an unchangeable, cool retreat in the warmest days of summer, with enchanting views of the scenery; the cascades under the bridges, formed by the current passing over the ledges of rock, being amongst the chief attractions.



Terrapin Tower.

From the head of the third Sister may be seen one continuous cascade, extending as far as the eye can reach, from Goat Island across to the Canada shore, varying from ten to twenty feet in height. From this miniature Niagara rises a spray similar to that of the great Falls.

The "Little Brother," a small island at the foot of the Third Sister, has not yet been bridged.

The "Hermit's Cascade" is best seen from the *First Sister Island Bridge*, by which it is spanned, and is a beautiful sight. It is so called because Francis Abbott, The Hermit of the Falls, used to



Three Sisters from below.

bathe here. He was a young man, gentlemanly and accomplished, who for two years lived a solitary life at Niagara. He had a hut near this spot on the Island, and later on he built one in what is now Prospect Park. He had but little intercourse with any one, wrote a great deal, and always in Latin, but destroyed all manuscripts almost as soon as written. On Goat Island, at hours when it was unfrequented, he delighted to roam, heedless, if not oblivious, of danger. At that time, a stick of timber eight inches square extended from Terrapin Bridge eight feet beyond the precipice.

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On this he has been seen at all hours of the night, pacing to and fro, without the slightest tremor of nerve or hesitancy of step. Sometimes he was seen sitting carelessly on the extreme end of the timber—sometimes hanging from it by his hands and feet. He belonged to a respectable English family, and his reasons for leading this life were never known. He was drowned while bathing near the foot of the Park Railway, in 1831. His body was recovered, and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Niagara Falls.

When you get back to Goat Island, you can return to the Bridge



View on First Sister Island.

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by a short way by taking the road straight ahead through the woods. It is best, however, to see the other views, and to do this you turn to your right and follow the road directly East. Here one sees how it was possible for the island to have reached a long way up stream, for a bar extends up between the currents for nearly half a mile, with a depth of water not over four feet. This also shows how it was possible for people to visit the Island before the Bridge was built.

There is little trouble in coming down to the Island in a boat, but the return is dangerous, as, if the boat is drawn into the current on either side, it is almost certain death, as the water is too rough, too shallow and too rapid to allow the oarsman to manage his boat at all.

The time to visit Goat Island is in the morning; the earlier, the better. The foliage is brighter, the air cooler and purer; one is better prepared physically to enjoy nature, and above all you get the best views, as the sun is at your back, and brightens and glorifies the scenery without blinding you. Still more important, it is only in the morning that the glorious rainbows can be seen from the islands.

After leaving the head of the Island from the road, you get a good view of the Rapids. Half way to the bridge is a spring of cool water, situated at the foot of the bank. The path to it is



Bridge to Third Sister.

easily accessible, and the view of the Rapids through the trees and at their edge is fine.

Surrounded as it is by water, and with such a torrent of water on each side, and with such a head, the water-power capabilities of the Island in a manufacturing point of view can hardly be estimated. No other known spot could furnish such a number of horse-power. A canal cut through the center, and large wings or dams on each shore, would furnish power hardly dreamt of heretofore.

Geologically, too, the Island is a mine of wealth, its Western cliff showing exactly the composition and dip of the rocks. Its shores

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show the action of the water, and bear the records of the past, while beneath its trees, and mingled with its soil, are the shells and alluvial deposit by which geologists have proved that ages ago, while Niagara was cutting its gorge from Lewiston to its present location, the whole of the entire section for miles and miles was submerged, the Niagara River being a broad and comparatively shallow stream.

It is to-day a temple of nature, at whose shrine thousands from all over the world annually pay their tribute of praise. It is an important page, as before noted, in the book of the geologist,



View from Third Sister.

while to the botanist it is a spot sacred from the vast number of its present species and the preserver in the petrefactions, of leaves and animal life that are found within its borders, of the history of the vegetable kingdoms of the past.

Goat Island presents, from the Canada side, an appearance similar to that of the cliff of the South coast of England—it being near the ledge, about 170 feet in height. It is entirely composed of hard stone, mostly limestone, slate and marl.



It is covered with a grand old "forest primeval," containing many trees now withered and decayed, but which have stood sentinel over this scene for hundreds of years. This is an almost unique bit of virgin forest, and it has been the policy and pride of its owners to thus preserve it. In Winter, these trees are the roosting places of the crows, who come here nightly and in thousands from all over this section of the country.

No sportsman is allowed to carry a gun on this Island, as it would endanger the lives of those who are promenading through it. The cottage near the Bridge is the only dwelling on the Island.

The Island is a favorite resort and study of botanists, who declare that they have found on it over 400 different species and kinds of plants and trees. It is also said that it contains a greater number of valuable species of the vegetable kingdom than the same area in any explored portion of the world.

The scenery from the Island by moonlight is a rare sight, and should be enjoyed by all who have an opportunity to thus visit it.

In Winter, the Island scenery is magnificent, for no matter which way the wind blows, the spray reaches some part of the forest where it congeals on every twig and limb, in that glittering sheen, and that glorious ice foliage, which is unmatched elsewhere.

Taking the Goat Island Group as a whole, it may be said that they essentially form what is understood as "*Niagara Falls*," as they adjoin both cataracts, and afford all the most desirable views here.

#### PROSPECT PARK.

Next in order comes this well known property, now embracing some 12 acres, and owned by the Prospect Park Co. The land adjoins the American Fall, with a frontage above the Fall of some 400 feet, and along the gorge a still longer frontage.



Entrance to Prospect Park.

It comprises what was known as the old ferry, which was private property, and which used to be free to all, but in 1872, this company purchased, enlarged and improved it, and charged admission. From time to time, adjoining lands have been added, till it now embraces all the land between Canal street and the River, extending from Rapids street to the New Suspension Bridge.

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General View from Prospect Point.

Its Main Entrance is a tasty structure, at the foot of Cascade street, and is here portrayed. The point of land at the edge and brink of the Falls, is called Prospect Point, and commands a fine view, which is the feature of the Park, which we give in illustration. The point is carefully protected by a handsome stone wall running for some distance along the edge of the Gorge.

By some 300 stairs, or better still, in a car running on an inclined railway, we descend to the waters edge. These cars are raised and lowered by water power, by means of a 3-inch cable 300 feet long running around and over steel wheels. At the foot of the stairway are the dressing rooms for the Shadow of the Rock, as the space between the Rock and the sheet of water at the end of the American Falls is called, and where one can go in as far as his inclination may prompt.

Here is also an observatory built of stone, a place from which, when the spray is blown down the river, one can see the Falls from a sheltered place. Here is also the Hurricane Bridge, whence, when the spray is blown the other way, one can get a near view of the Falls and of the rocks which lie at its base.

Over the Hurricane Bridge and the rocks near by is formed each winter a huge mountain of solid ice, which does not entirely disappear till the end of May. This ice mountain has been 100 feet high. On the top of the observatory and dressing room too, the ice often forms 4 feet thick.

A view of the observatory is shown on opposite page.

At this point is also a ferry to Canada. By small row boats the ride is pleasant and entirely free from danger, and the view is grand, in fact the view from the center of the river and opposite the American Fall is one that should not be missed.



Horseshoe Falls.

The annexed view is the one seen as the boat lands at its Canada dock. There has been a ferry here for 75 years, and no accident has ever happened.

On the table-land above, which forms the Park proper, every aid of science has been used in preparing the means of passing time pleasantly, a handsome Art Gallery and Pavilion have been erected, while the beautiful Electric Light, thrown through white and colored glasses upon dancing

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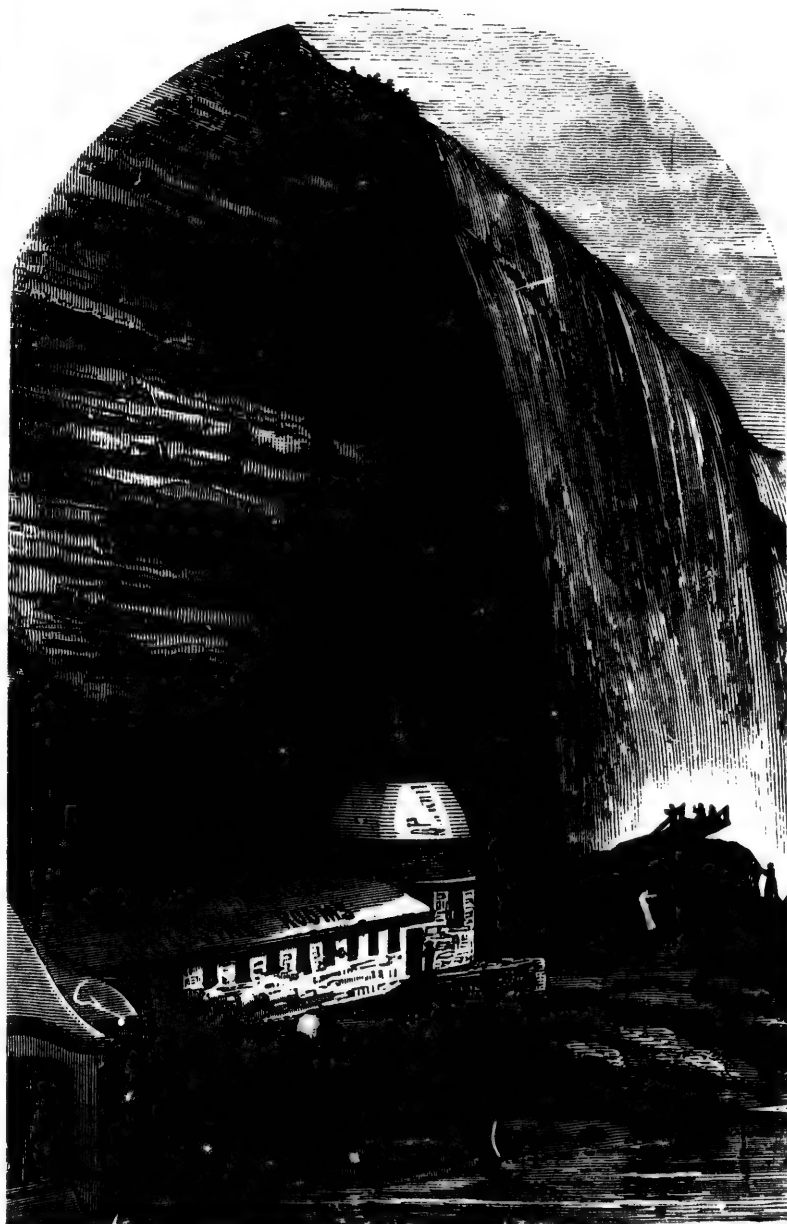
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fountains of water, and called the Electric Fountains, give at night a magical effect seldom witnessed. The grounds are illuminated each evening by the electric light, and one edge of the American Fall and Rapids are also illuminated. Although mainly the result of artificial aids to the natural scenery of the Falls it is a most enjoyable park, and as such well worth a visit. The officers of the Company are, H. Nielson, President and D. J. Townsend, Secretary and Treasurer.

The charges for admission to the park are: For the day, 25 cents; including railway, 50 cents; for the day and electric light, 40 cents; for the evening—electric light, 25 cents; Canada and return by ferry, 50 cents.

A few accidents, or rather suicides, have occurred from near this point since 1872. In 1880 a man entered the park, and after a short time jumped into the river just near the toll gate, and waded out. He was swept downward, and those who saw the act, supposed he was lost; but about 300 feet from the Falls, and while about 50 feet from shore, he succeeded in getting a foothold, changed his mind, and was safely aided to the shore.

He was probably the only man who ever got so thoroughly within the power of the Falls, and yet escaped alive.

#### NEW SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

Next in order comes the new Suspension Bridge, below the American Fall. It is a Carriage and Foot Brige, built by 2 companies. 1 Canadian and 1 American, in 1872. The first ropes were carried over on the Ice Bridge. It is said to be the longest bridge suspended span in the world; from shore end of one town to shore end of the other, being 1268 feet, or about a quarter of a mile.

The deflection of the cables at centre—is 91 ft. in Summer and in Winter 88 feet, making a rise and fall of the bridge from changes of temperature 3 feet. The length of cables between anchorages is 1828 feet. Fine views can be had from the top of the towers. Height of bridge above water, 190 feet. It is capable of carrying 13 times as much as can by any ordinary circumstance: be placed upon it. Its towers are 100 feet high. Charges: Each person, each way, 25 cents.

Visitors at Niagara Falls usually cross to Canada via this Bridge. On reaching the Canada Shore, at a point near the Clifton House, one gets one of the best general views to be obtained of Niagara, though personally we prefer the view as we stand up near the edge of the Falls, a view of which we give on next page.



General View from "Canada Side."

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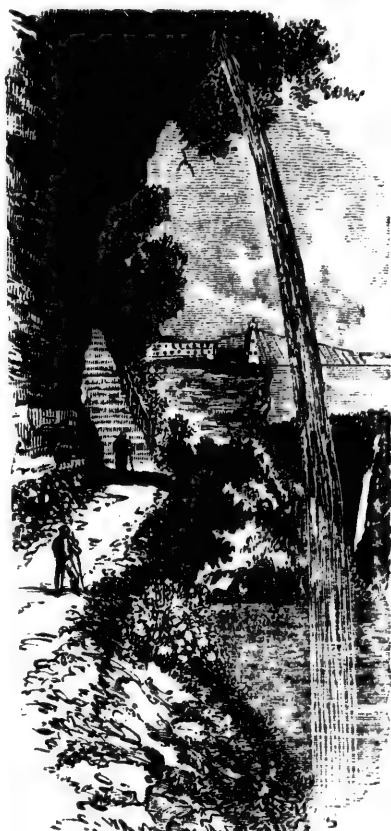
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Near Table Rock is a Museum containing a very full and very fine collections of all sorts of curiosities usually found in such a place. Admission to museum and gardens, 50 cents.

#### TABLE ROCK.

One of the most famous points about Niagara in the old times now gone forever, was Table Rock. This was at this point on the Canada side, about 10 rods below the Falls and was simply a huge edge of rock overhanging the precipice.



Stairs on the Canada Side.

The form and dimensions of Table Rock were originally very large, but they were changed by frequent and violent disruptions. In July, 1818, a mass broke off 160 feet in length, and from 30 to 40 feet in width. December 9, 1828, three immense portions, reaching under the Horseshoe Fall, fell "with a shock like an earthquake." In the summer of 1829, another large mass fell off, and June 26, 1850, a piece 200 feet long and 60 feet deep fell, the last piece of the table. Those who wish to go under the Horseshoe Fall can descend a road cut from the Museum to the foot of the bank. Dresses can be procured and guides obtained to pass under Table Rock. Ascertain definitely the charge and that there are to be no extras, before starting.

It was on Table Rock that Mrs. Sigourney wrote her spirited *Apostrophe to Niagara*. Standing right at the edge of the water, just where it pours over, a grander or more imposing sight cannot well be imagined. Below lies the Niagara, its waters boiling and seething after the plunge, and for fully a thousand feet from the base of the Falls, as white as milk. Above are the rapids rushing directly toward you and in the middle of these surroundings man feels his own littleness and dependence.

The Terrapin Rocks, as we have said before, are the very center of Niagara, no spot can surpass it. Next to that, we think, the point we have just described, is the best.

One should visit Canada in the afternoon, for the sun is then at your back and its full glory is thrown on the opposite Falls, and in the afternoon alone, can rainbows be seen from the Canada side.

#### BURNING SPRINGS.

Following along the River bank one crosses to Cedar Island, on which is an observatory or pagoda, and skirting along the rapids for about a mile, with as fine scenery as Niagara can afford, you reach the beautiful Clark Hill Islands, 3 in number, and connected



Clark Hill Islands and Bridge.

by beautiful Suspension Bridges erected in 1878. The scenery here is grand, each turn bringing you to some new feature or bit of nature; but the main attraction is the Burning Spring, which is on the edge of the River and where the current runs forty miles an hour.

The Spring was known, and tradition says, worshipped by the Indians, who considered it as one form of the Great Spirit. The water of the Spring is highly charged with sulphuretted hydrogen gas and when lit emits a pale blue light. This natural jet of gas is exhibited in a darkened room for effect, and runs up flames to about 4 feet in height. Glasses of the gaseous water are given to visitors and are said to possess rare medicinal properties. This Spring consists of a jet of natural gas emitted from the subterranean rock, through artificial fissures; the method of collecting and burning the gas being also shown. From the appearance of the flame it would be just to suppose that large and valuable coal fields exist under this property; and at some future time the natural forces of the current may

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On the bank  
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We append two  
cuts of the bridges  
and scenery about  
these beautiful  
Islands.



Cedar Island and Pagoda.

#### WHIRLPOOL, CANADA SIDE.

Driving back along the edge of the River, past the New Suspension Bridge, and 2 miles more along the edge of the Bluff, we reach the Whirlpool, Canada side, which overlooks the boiling maelstrom. From here one looks down into the Whirlpool itself, while directly away from him winds the Niagara till it is lost in Lake Ontario beyond. You can descend by car to the waters edge, obtaining grand views, both of the Rapids as they enter the Whirlpool and also of this wonderful basin itself. From here Brock's Monument is visible on a clear day. Admission, 50 cents.

We present on following page the view as seen from this point.

#### WHIRLPOOL RAPIDS PARK.

In the reach of the River, below the Old Suspension Bridge, is what is generally known as the Whirlpool Rapids Park (Canada side). It comprises the natural uplands of the river bank, which, at this point, are 250 feet high, as well as a road at the base of the cliff, which follows the course of the river, and has been excavated from the rock. In the warm days of summer this is a most delightfully cool and shady retreat, the cliff forming a natural protection from the rays of the sun, while the immediate presence of the swift-rolling waters ensures a perennial coolness. Two means of access to the water's edge are provided, the first being a series of steps forming a long flight of stairs, and the other a unique inclined railway operating two cars running by the specific gravity of water in the tanks under each car filled from a spring at the top of the cliff and emptied on the arrival of the cars at the foot of the incline. The ascent or descent is made in 1½ minutes, the loaded car from above being the motive power used to hoist

the lighter car from below. The visit to this Park, including railway, costs 50 cents. Nowhere else can so perfect an idea of the enormous power of the River be obtained. Rushing through the narrow defiles, the water here meets with such restriction, as to make it leap in some places to height of 20 feet, the rolling surges of the stream being exactly similar to those of the ocean in a storm.



View from Whirlpool, Canada Side.

Taylor Island, noted in 1881 as the spot where some dogs, afterwards rescued, were temporarily in danger of dying from starvation, is exactly opposite on the American side. It is also well to add here a brief mention of the excellent photographic arrangements of this Park—persons or parties can here be photographed with the Rapids in the background, the picture making one of the most interesting and noteworthy obtainable.

#### OLD SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

The Railroad Suspension Bridge, more commonly call the Old Bridge, is 2 miles below the Falls, is 800 feet long, and spans, 230 feet above its waters, one of the most turbulent streams on the globe, whose current just below flows at the rate of 30 miles an hour. It

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has 2 distinct roadways, the one above for trains, the one below for carriages and foot passengers. It is owned by 2 stock companies and cost \$500,000. It was built under the superintendence of J. A. Roebling, and finished in 1858.

The following are the dimensions :

|                                            |             |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Length of span,                            | 822 feet.   |
| Height of tower above rock, American side, | 88 "        |
| " " " " Canada side,                       | 78 "        |
| " " " " floor of railway,                  | 60 "        |
| Number of wire cables,                     | 4           |
| Diameter of each cable,                    | 10½ in.     |
| Number of No. 9 wires in each cable,       | 3,659       |
| Ultimate aggregate strength of cables,     | 12,400 tons |

It is regarded as a great triumph of engineering skill. 9000 miles of wire are employed in the 4 cables. The first string was carried



Whirlpool Rapids, Canada Side.

across the chasm by means of a kite, and then heavier ropes were dragged across, till the cables themselves thus performed the passage. Charges: Each person, over and back, 25 cents.

#### WHIRLPOOL RAPIDS, AMERICAN SIDE.

The effect of changing the point of view is nowhere better illustrated than in the case of the Rapids above named. Seen from the Canada side they have all the advantages of cool, shady walks and uplands, as it relates to the position of the sun in the warmest portions of the day. But as seen from the American side they have a peculiar charm in the fierce glint of the sunlight

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illuminating the crests of the flood and in the emerald and opal translucence of the waters as they pass in their swift career.

In spite of the disadvantage of the sun being directly opposite, there is no inconvenience from heat, as the near proximity of the rolling river allows visitors to enjoy at the same time the beneficial effects of a sun bath and the soothing influence of the cooling action of the waters. Here, descending by the Double Elevator, which runs down the perpendicular face of the cliff we reach the sloping bank and by a foot-path we descend to the water's edge. Here we see where the entire volume of water from the Upper Lakes discharges itself through a gorge, confining but intensifying its power, and producing such a conflict between the natural forces as to recall vividly the old proposition of an irresistible force meeting with an immovable object. In 1861 the little steamboat, "Maid of the Mist" under the command of Capt. J. Robertson, navigated this Rapid, and passed safely, but not without disastrous



Whirlpool Rapids, American Side.

effect, through the Whirlpool below, and it is safe to hazard the opinion that her wheelsman was the first and last navigator of the torrent or race, it being worthy, although properly a river, of either designation.

#### THE WHIRLPOOL.

When it is remembered that about 100,000,000 tons of water pass over the Falls every hour and that this quantity is compelled to pass between steep cliffs to a point about 2 miles distant from the Falls, where the course of the river turns abruptly at an angle



of 45 degrees, it will be understood, even by those who have never witnessed the scene, that such a terrific force must cause a fearful commotion in its rocky bed.

In point of fact, the power of the Falls confined in these narrow limits raises the center of the billowy flood to a height of from 10 to 40 feet. It is assumable that the earth does not afford another spectacle of contention of natural forces parallel to this. Descending from the Falls proper in an almost resistless torrent, this river, called by the Indians the "Father of Waters," is suddenly checked by its rock-bound barriers causing it to make a ceaseless passage around the pool, from which it can escape only after having made the entire circuit, and only then by passing through, over and under the ever-recurring accession of waters in the estuary of the channel proper.

The effect of this combination of forces can better be imagined than described, yet a very good idea of it can be obtained from the statement that it reverses the usual order of things in which the axiom says, "water finds its own level." Here water finds no level, but is forced and sustained in dome form, the surface of the pool being actually the segment of a circle,

At the outlet of the Whirlpool the river is only 25 rods across, and a strong man can throw a stone from one nation to the other. The Whirlpool is a vast basin or ampitheatre, with an ill-proportioned opening at right angles with the river above; this opening is to the right as you have your back to the Falls, and is comparatively narrow. The pool is shut in on all sides, save the opening mentioned, by rocky cliffs 350 feet high, whose sides facing the river are quite smooth and perpendicular. The basin containing this pool is nearly circular, and together with the water forms a very picturesque scene. But as to the pool itself it must be acknowledged that many are disappointed with its appearance. The outlet seems inadequate, but has answered for thousands of years. The old outlet, as geologists claim, is still to be traced almost opposite to where the river pours in. It is simply the trace of what once was a gorge through which the river ran to Lake Ontario and over twenty miles to the west of its present location. In bygone ages it has been completely filled up. The depth of the Whirlpool is enormous, and its force and suction immense. It is boiling and eddying incessantly. Logs twenty feet long are drawn into eddys and made to stand on end like ship's masts. Its waters revolve constantly; its surface is never quiet. Bodies sometimes float in the water for two or three months before

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they are drawn into just the right eddy whence to find the outlet, which is at right angles with the entrance.

The land adjoining the Whirlpool on the American side is owned by the De Veaux College, an Episcopalian establishment first started by the liberality of Judge De Veaux in 1855.

The college is one of the finest institutions of its class on this continent, and is shown to visitors on application. From its grounds a zigzag path permits a near inspection of the mighty flood as it passes through the pool, for a remuneration, going to the funds of the college, of 50 cents.

As a large sum of money has been expended in the effort to provide a means of access to the Whirlpool, obviating the natural dangers of falling from such a height or of descending to the river edge the charge ought properly to be regarded as of little account.

## NEIGHBORING POINTS OF INTEREST.

These places just given embrace all that is usually meant by Niagara Falls. These are the points from which the best views of the Falls of the Rapids and of the Gorge can be obtained.

But the Falls are in the center of an interesting territory, and we shall now note all those points within a radius of about 20 miles, which have either a historical or a commercial interest.

We shall first take the American bank of the River, from its source to its mouth, and give the names and incidents connected with each place, and we shall then proceed in a like manner with the Canadian side.

### AMERICAN SIDE.

Buffalo, at the source of the River, is the 11th city of the Union in point of population, which in 1880 was 180,000. It is famous as the Western terminus of the Erie Canal, and also as the chief Eastern port of lake navigation. It is situated about 22 miles from the Falls.

Black Rock, a suburb of Buffalo, where in 1812 Gen. Alexander Smyth, of Virginia, collected about 5000 men, who responded to his bombastic circular, asking all to retrieve the nation's honor and share in the danger and glory of an invasion of Canada. Nothing ever came of the matter; there was no invasion, and the force was disbanded.

Grand Island, distant 3 miles at the South end from Buffalo and 3 miles at the North end from the Falls, is 12 miles in length and 7 in breadth. The land is fertile, and much of it is under cultivation. It was at White Haven, on this Island, that the late Major Mordecai M. Noah, of New York, designed to build the "City of Ararat," as a place of refuge for the scattered tribes of Israel. In 1825, he even went so far as to lay the corner-stone amid great pomp, and to erect a monument to commemorate the occasion. The monument is still standing, in a fair state of preservation.

Tonawanda, 11 miles above the Falls, is a small village, famous as a lumber market, holding the second place in America or next to Chicago in the amount of lumber handled.

The village of LaSalle, 5 miles above the falls, at the mouth of

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Cayuga Creek, was named after Chevalier Robert de La Salle, who at this point, in 1679, built his vessel, the now forgotten Griffin.

At the foot of Grand Island lies Buckhorn Island, with an area of about 250 acres. Between these two, and about 3 miles above the Falls, is an arm of the River called Burnt Ship Bay from a circumstance connected with the war of 1759. The garrison at Schlosser had already made a brave resistance to one attack of the English, and were preparing for another, when, disheartened by the news of the fall of Quebec, they decided to destroy the two armed vessels containing their military stores. Accordingly, they brought them to this bay and burnt them. Portions of the vessels are visible under water even at this day.

Just below on the American shore, 2 miles above the Falls, is Schlosser Landing, the end of the Portage from Lewiston. This terminus was gradually fortified till it became a fort called Fort de Portage. This was burnt by Joncaire on his retreat in 1759. In 1761, Capt. Schlosser, of the British army, rebuilt it stronger than ever. He named it after himself and died there. Here in 1837, the Steamer Caroline was attacked, set on fire and sent over the Falls. The patriot movement being put down in Canada, the leaders established themselves on Navy Island. Visitors thereto being numerous, the Caroline, a small steamer, was brought down from Buffalo as a private venture it was believed, to serve as a ferry or freight boat. The Canadians, thinking the boat was chartered by the patriots for offensive operations against Canada, at midnight, December 29, 1837, dispatched a chosen band of men under Capt. Drew, in 8 boats, to destroy her. As she lay at Schlosser dock, she was boarded by these parties. Those on board, crew as well as some who, unable to get beds in the little hotel, had got berths on board, were attacked. All but one escaped to shore, he being shot dead. The gallant band having thus succeeded in their attack, set the vessel on fire, towed her out into the stream and let her drift. It was a grand sight. A mass of flames, she floated down the River and entered the Rapids, but before she reached the head of the Island, the water conquered and extinguished the flames. The smoke-stack, it is said, still lies at the bottom of the River near Schlosser.

The old stone chimney on the river bank,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles above the Falls, was built in 1750, and was the first stone structure erected in this part of the country. It was the chimney of the barracks of the French Fort, called "Little Fort," which was burnt by Joncaire, when compelled to retreat in 1759. It was re-

built two years afterward as an adjunct to Fort Schlosser. The chimney now stands in excellent preservation.

Next comes the Falls themselves, fully described before.

Three and a half miles below the Falls, on the American side, is the Devil's Hole, a terrible gloomy and rugged chasm in the bank of the River, between 100 and 200 feet deep. Overhanging this dark cavern, is a perpendicular precipice, from the top of which falls a small stream, usually dry in Summer, named the "Bloody Run," and which takes its name from being turned to a bloody stream during the fight described below.



Devil's Hole.

This chasm was cut by this stream continuously flowing into it, and aided naturally by the enormous force of the Falls, when they were at this point. During the French war in 1765, a detachment of the British were decoyed into an ambush here by the French and Indians. The war whoop of the savages was the first indication of danger. Officers, men, women, children and wagons were pushed over the bank into the chasm below. 250 people were killed. Only two persons escaped, a drummer, who was caught in a branch of a tree in his fall, and John Steadman (the

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same who put the goats upon Goat Island), who sputred his horse and ran the gauntlet of bullets to a place of safety.

The Tuscarora Indian Reservation is 7 miles Northeast from the Falls. Driven from their original seats in North Carolina, this tribe came to New York in 1712, and became merged in the confederacy of the Iroquois. In the revolutionary war, part of them favored the English, and part remained neutral. Those of the Tuscaroras and Oneidas who had been allies of the English, left Oneida Lake, came down the Oswego River, and coasted along Lake Ontario to the British garrison at Fort Niagara. In the Spring, part of them returned and part of them took possession of a mile square upon the mountain ridge, given them by the Senecas, one tribe of the six nations. The Holland Land Company gave them 2 square miles more, and in 1804 sold them 4,329 acres, this forming the estate upon which the Tuscaroras are now located. As the home of that anomaly, a civilized Indian, it is one of the curiosities of this locality and well worth a visit.

The bluff or top of the Mountain, 6 miles from the Falls, so geologists tell us, was the old shore of Lake Ontario, a fact which seems to be undisputed. Near here are the remains of old Fort Grey. Lewiston, 7 miles below the Falls, was named in honor of Gov. Lewis of New York. It is at the foot of the mountain. La Salle built a cabin of palisades here in 1678, and this was the commencement of the Portage whose upper terminus was Fort Schlosser, and which passed over nearly the present roads, a part of which is still called the Portage Road. Up the mountain side here was built the first railroad in the United States. It was built entirely of wood, the rails being broad and flat. The car ran on runners instead of wheels. It was raised and lowered by a windlass and carried heavy goods up and down. It was a rude work, but answered its purpose perfectly.

14 miles from the Falls at the mouth of the River, stands Fort Niagara, which was established as a trading post by La Salle in 1678. In 1687, De Nonville built the fort proper for the prosecution of a war on the Iroquois in defense of the Indian allies of the Western country. The next year it was abandoned, but in 1825 was rebuilt in stone, by the consent of the Iroquois. The English General Prideaux was killed here in 1759, and after the battle the French surrendered it to Sir William Johnson. It is now a U. S. Fort regularly garrisoned. Here is the famous dungeon where in 1824, Morgan, of anti-masonic fame, was said to have been confined, and whence it was claimed he was taken to be drowned in the lake, about a mile from the Fort.

#### CANADA SIDE.

Fort Erie is at the mouth of the River, on Lake Erie, 22 miles from the Falls. From the Fort, on Sept. 17, 1814, the Americans made the famous sortie, defeating the British besiegers and compelling them to raise the siege.

Navy Island, three miles above the Falls, has an area of 340 acres, and belongs to Canada, and is the only large Island in the River that they own. It is famous, mainly, as the headquarters of the Patriots during the Patriot war in 1837.

The village of Chippewa is two miles above the Falls. In the field South of it, on July 5, 1814, was fought the battle of Chippewa, which resulted in a victory for the Americans.

Lundy's Lane Battle Ground is one mile West of the Falls. On July 25, 1814, the decisive battle of the war between the U. S. and England was fought here, the loss on both sides in killed and wounded being 1,800, the Americans being victorious.

The village of Drummondville is about one-half mile West from the Falls, and is so called in honor of General Drummond.

Brock's Monument is on Queenston Heights, 6 miles below the Falls. It is a handsome shaft, erected to perpetuate the memory of General Isaac Brock, who fell here in 1813. The first monument was built in 1826, and was 126 feet high. This was destroyed by explosion on the night of the 17th of April, 1840, and was replaced by the present structure in 1853. It is 185 feet in height, the base being 40 feet square and 30 feet high. Four lions, facing the cardinal points of the compass, rest on this as well as on the pedestal, 16 feet square by 10 feet high, ornamented in *alto-relievo* by lions' heads alternated by wreaths. The shaft is of freestone, 75 feet high, by 30 feet in circumference, having a Corinthian capital 10 feet in height, carrying in relief a statue of the Goddess of War. Over this is a round dome 7 feet in height, surmounted by Brock's statue, and can be reached by 250 spiral steps, starting from the interior of the base.

The Suspension Bridge, the third one of the four ever built hereabouts, was at Queenston heights. It was built in 1857, and was a graceful structure. A terrible gale tore up its roadway and loosened its guys, leaving it a dangling wreck. As it was never a very paying investment, it was not rebuilt.

Queenston, a small village just below Brock's Monument, was so called in honor of Queen Charlotte.

The village of Niagara, near the ruins of Fort George, is older, according to Marshall, than any settlement on the Eastern bank.



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Brock's Monument, and View from Queenston Heights.





View of Queenston Heights.

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In 1792, it became the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor of Canada, and the first session of the Parliament of the Upper Province was held there. It is on the site of the village of Newark, burned by General McClure in 1813.

At the mouth of the River, and just below the village, is old Fort George, captured by the Americans—Gen. Dearborn commanding—in 1812. It was destroyed by Gen. McClure the next year, and has never been rebuilt.

Fort Messissuga, now only used as a Summer camp, is just below.

Welland Canal, with its new water way, and grand locks just finished, runs almost parallel with the Niagara River, 8 miles West of it.

#### ADDENDA.

The magnetic declination at Niagara Falls is  $2^{\circ} 26'$  west.

A new bridge—the fifth one at or near Niagara—is in process of erection, some 300 feet above the present railroad bridge. It will be built on the Cantilier principle, and be used for railroad purposes only.

Various estimates place the number of years required by the Falls to have cut their way from Lewiston to their present location at from 35,000 to 72,000. The latter number is probably but a fraction of the great age of the coralline limestone over which the water flows.

The Iroquois was the name given to the confederacy of tribes which banded together against their enemies. These tribes were originally five in number, and were known as the Five Nations: The Senecas, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Mohawks. In 1712 the Tuscaroras were included, making the Six Nations. To-day, though stripped of their lands and poorer, they retain their organization, and keep up their rites and ceremonies. Their meetings, or Council Fires, held annually, have been removed from Oneida, their original seat, to Tonawanda.

## SUGGESTIONS TO VISITORS.

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These constitute Niagara Fall and its surroundings, and in conclusion, let us say: If you come to stay only a day, don't think you can see everything named above unless at a large expense. If you come to see Niagara Falls, insist on seeing them first, then select from the outside places any that you desire. If you are going to spend a week here, and certainly to appreciate and understand Niagara, one should stay that long, buy a season ticket to the two or three points. Visit them daily and spend plenty of time at them. Take in one of the other attractions each day. By so doing you will appreciate them all and will not go away feeling that you have been beaten out of your money, or that Niagara is such a very expensive place.

If, after viewing the real object of interest, the Falls themselves, the visitor chooses to extend his excursions into the surrounding country he will be amply repaid for his excursions but he should distinctly understand that these are not the Falls, but the country about the Falls; spots which are pleasant, but not necessary, for him who comes simply to view the great wonder of Niagara, to visit.

The charge of \$1.50 per hour for carriage, is as cheap as at any place in the country, and it is often possible to make a bargain at a much cheaper rate. The difference between the real state of affairs as they exist at the Falls, and the distorted one usually given, namely,—excessive tolls, high carriage hire, outrageous prices, etc., etc.—is an enormous one. One can spend a large sum of money in a day, but, on the other hand one can get one, and at some points, (especially Goat Island,) several excellent views of Niagara Falls, for 50 cents.

At no place that we know of are such favorable terms given to excursionists, thousands coming annually on excursions, and seeing, we may say, everything for a very small sum.

The visitor should remember that in crossing to Canada, he passes beyond the jurisdiction of the village trustees, and that if he is wronged by people there, he has, on the American side, no

method of redress. He should remember, also, that upon all goods brought into Canada there are large duties.

With these few words, we deem the visitor amply informed. We recommend him to use the same good sense here that he uses at home; to enquire the price of an article before he buys it, and if too costly, to let it alone, rather than buy it, and then go away grumbling; to enquire the price of a carriage before he engages it, and to understand that in no case is the charge more than \$1.50 per hour. He should expect to pay a fair price for all he receives, not to be continually trying to cheapen everything; for, as sure as he endeavors to do so, so surely will the advantage be taken of him. Any gentleman or lady who will carefully read and follow the above advice and directions, will never have reason to regret a visit to Niagara Falls.

#### IN WINTER.

To thoroughly study, understand and appreciate Niagara Falls one should see them both in Summer and Winter, for these two pictures, so utterly unlike, combine to make the perfect whole. In Summer, the greatest single beauty is the deep green color of the water, which, in the winter, is changed to a muddy yellow. But then the glorious ice scenery fully makes up for the loss. The trees are all covered with an ice foliage, bending and breaking under their loads of ice, which covers every twig and limb. This ice is formed layer by layer, as the spray falls and freezes; is as white as marble and as hard as flint. The ice bridge, which fills the narrow part of the River at the Ferry, the ice mountains formed at each end of the American Fall, and the large icicles hanging from the banks on both sides of the river, combine to make it a unique picture. When the scenery is so grand, and it usually is during our cold snap after the January thaw, it is well worth a visit, even if one has to travel a long way. If you can see Niagara but once, it had better be in Winter than in Summer. The various photographs, both glass and paper, give an excellent idea of Niagara in Summer, but the Winter views are far ahead, both as to faithful reproduction and to artistic work. In these, as seen through a stereoscope, the beauties of the ice formation, which is indescribable in words, is reproduced with a wonderful exactness.

#### IN SUMMER.

Many people say they prefer the view of the rapids, to that of the Falls, and surely the view of the former, from the Cataract verandah, from Goat Island Bridge, from the Three Sister Islands,

and also those views to be had on the way to the Burning Springs, are unsurpassed at Niagara.

During the Summer season, there is plenty of amusement to be found by those who wish to spend a few weeks here. The fishing in the River, some two or three miles above the Falls, is most excellent. Black bass, muscalonge, pickerel and perch abound, the bass fishing being especially good. Boats and tackle can always be obtained, also the services of a competent boatman, one who is thoroughly acquainted with the current of the river and the best fishing grounds. At the proper season of the year, on the River, and in the surrounding country, there can always be found enough good sport to satisfy those fond of hunting. In fact, Niagara is in the center of a territory where wood-cock, all sorts of snipe and duck abound.

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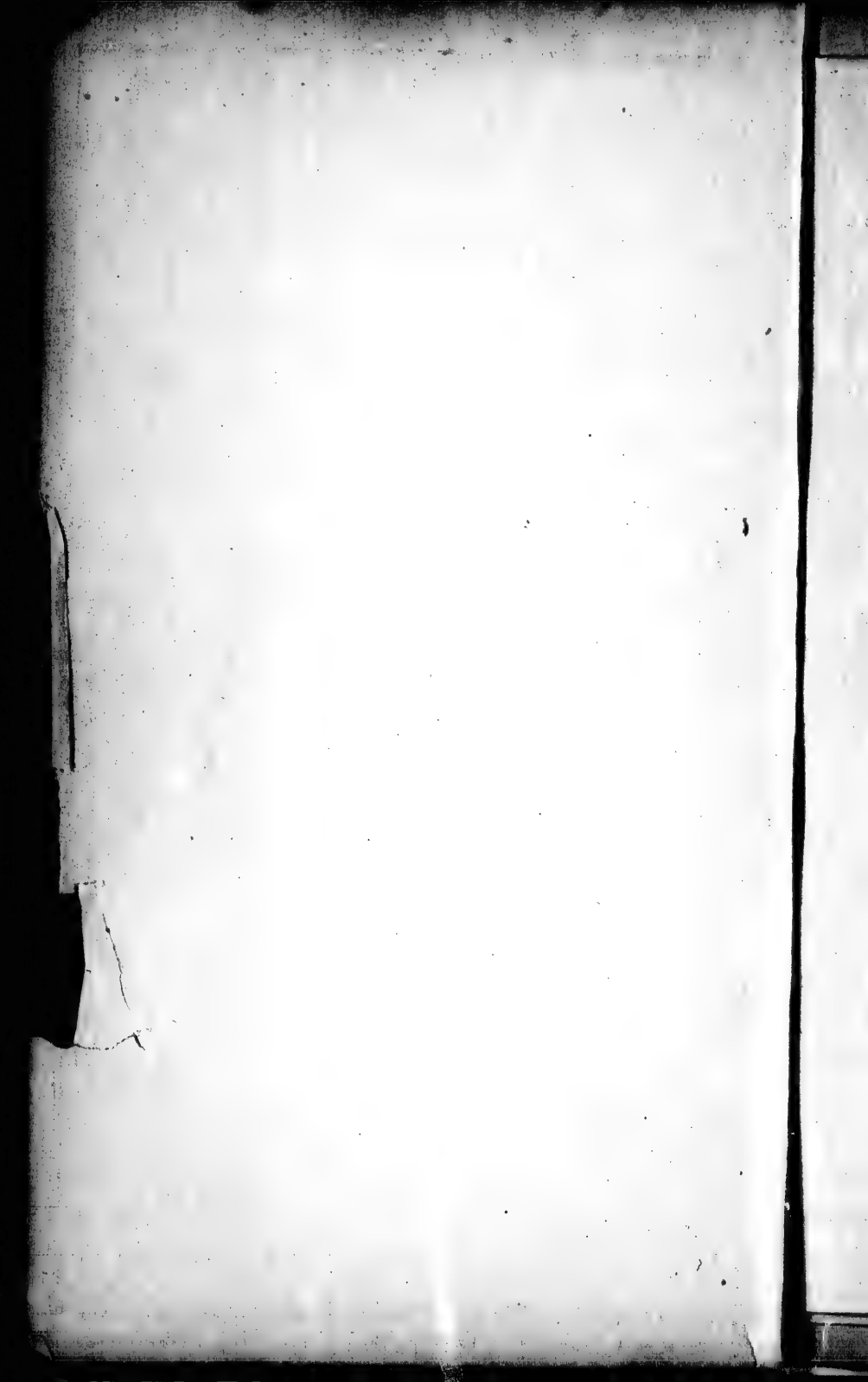
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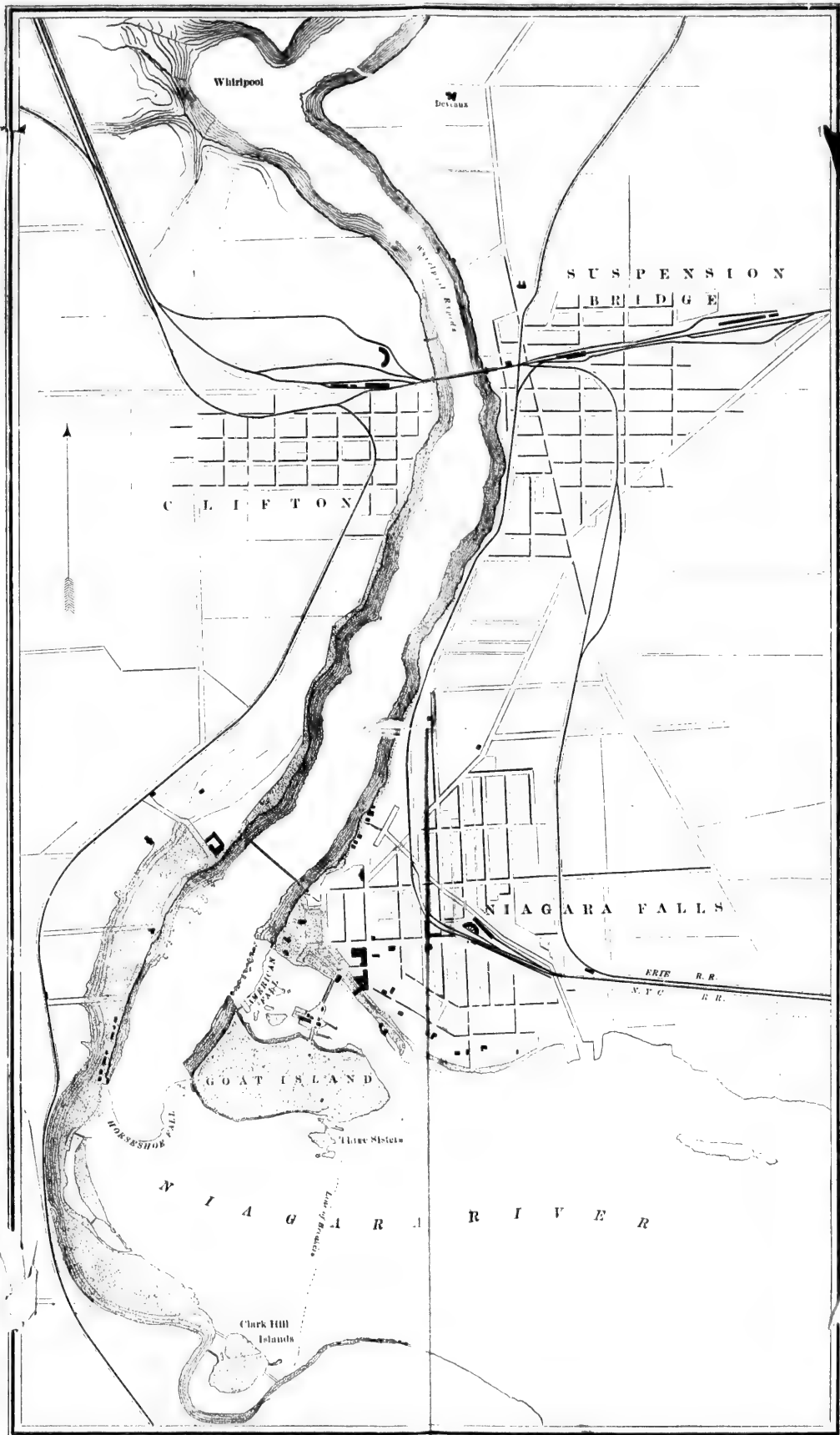
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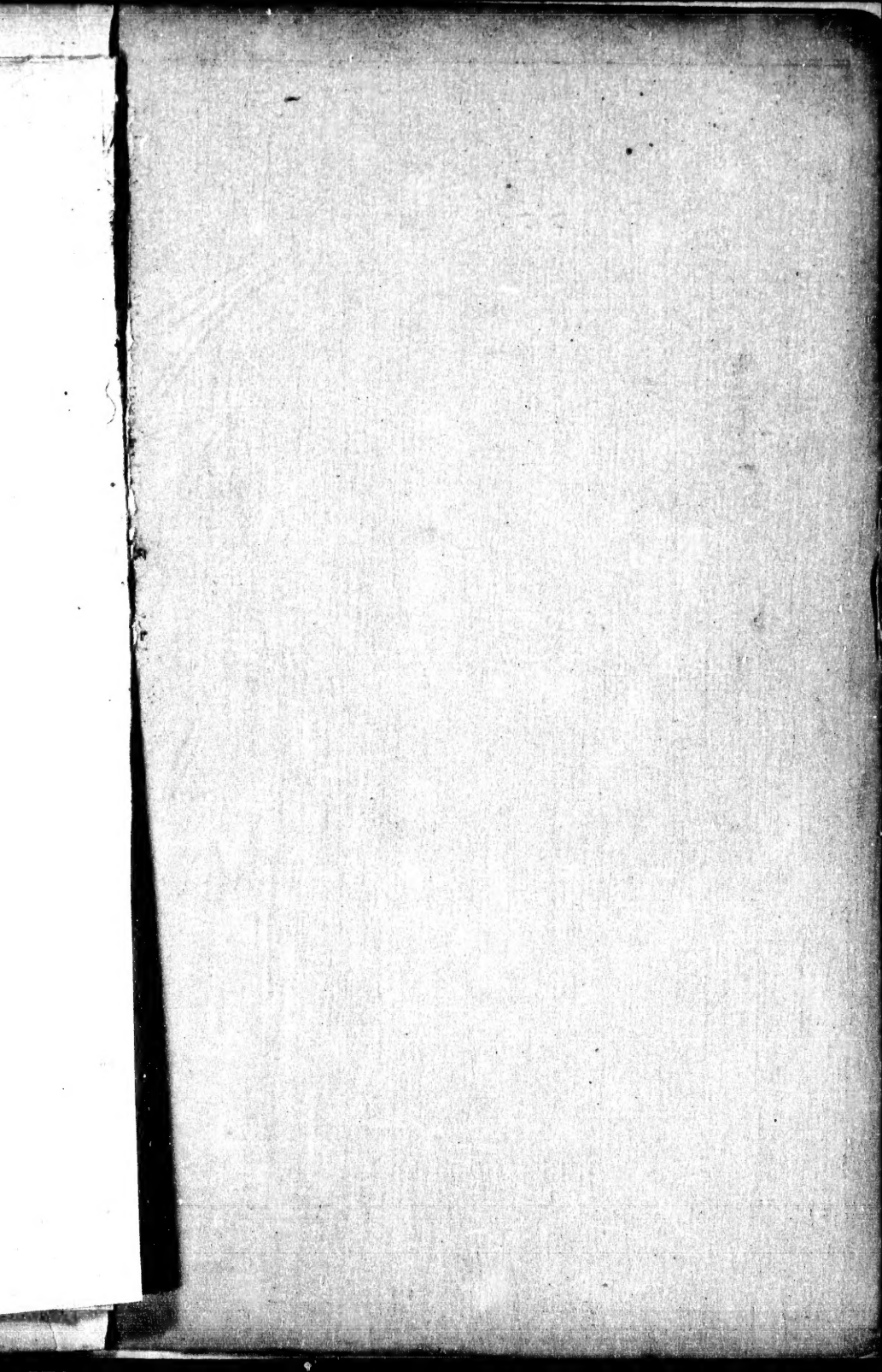












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